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Fifth Committee**Summary record of the 32nd meeting**

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 9 May 2012, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Tommo Monthe (Cameroon)
*Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative
and Budgetary Questions:* Mr. Kelapile

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 115: Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments
(continued)

(I) Appointment of members of the International Civil Service Commission (continued)
(A/66/694/Add.1)

1. **The Chair** drew attention to the note by the Secretary-General (A/66/694/Add.1) informing the General Assembly of the resignation of Mr. Yevgeny Vladimirovich Afanasiev (Russian Federation) from the International Civil Service Commission, with effect from 1 June 2012, and requesting the General Assembly to appoint a person to fill the vacancy for the remaining period of the term of office, which would expire on 31 December 2012.

2. The Government of the Russian Federation had nominated Mr. Sergei Garmonin, whose candidature had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States, to complete the unexpired portion of Mr. Afanasiev's term of office. He took it that the Committee decided to recommend the appointment of Mr. Garmonin to the International Civil Service Commission for a term of office beginning on the date of appointment and ending on 31 December 2012.

3. *It was so decided.*

4. Mr. Garmonin was recommended for appointment to the International Civil Service Commission for a term of office beginning on the date of his appointment and ending on 31 December 2012.

Agenda item 146: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (continued) (A/66/286 (Part II), A/66/591 and Add.1, A/66/679, A/66/699, A/66/714 and A/66/718; A/C.5/66/15)

5. **Ms. Casar** (Controller), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the overview of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (A/66/679) and the note by the Secretary-General on proposed budgetary levels for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 (A/C.5/66/15), said that the report contained information on budget performance for 2010/11, budget proposals for 2012/13, the status of the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund, management of

contingent-owned equipment and liabilities to troop- and police-contributing countries, and the management initiatives that had been proposed by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support.

6. The gross proposed budget level for peacekeeping operations for 2012/13 was estimated at \$7.4 billion, which was \$433.9 million, or 5.5 per cent, less than the approved budget level for 2011/12. The reduction was owing in part to the fact that several missions, including the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), were expected to have reduced levels of activity; the major reasons for the reduction in resource requirements for each mission were listed in the report (table 14). Management initiatives aimed at realizing efficiency gains were also expected to reduce the level of resources required.

7. With regard to recently established missions, the increase in the proposed requirements for the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) was mainly owing to the fact that the proposed 2012/13 budget for the Mission was based on detailed costs and actual experience, whereas the 2011/12 budget had been developed using the standardized funding model. The increase in the proposed budget for the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) resulted from the application of a lower delayed deployment factor for the full authorized military strength and the need to support the mandated implementation of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism.

8. The financial resources needed to support peacekeeping missions were estimated at \$390.9 million for 2012/13, which was \$22.4 million, or 5.4 per cent, less than the \$413.3 million budgeted for 2011/12. Those resources included the support account for peacekeeping operations, including requirements for enterprise resource planning, and the United Nations Logistics Base.

9. Staffing needs had also been reduced: 855 fewer civilian posts and positions were proposed for 2012/13 than had been approved in 2011/12. Based on the current peacekeeping mandates approved by the Security Council, there would be approximately 127,500

uniformed peacekeeping personnel in 2012/13, including troops of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

10. Actual expenditures for 2010/11, including the Logistics Base and the support account, had amounted to \$7.58 billion of the \$7.94 billion total approved budget, representing a budget implementation rate of 95.5 per cent. The African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) accounted for nearly \$225 million of the \$360 million unencumbered balance, as contingent-owned major equipment had not been deployed by the mission as planned. There had also been a decrease in the ceiling-man-rate for fresh rations, lower-than-budgeted expenditures for international staff costs and a lower-than-planned level of aviation activities at UNAMID.

11. In order to arrive at a more accurate budget forecast for 2012/13, the process for determining vacancy factors and delayed deployment factors applied to the cost estimates for military, police and civilian personnel and air transportation requirements had been carefully reviewed and adapted. The processes for determining international staff costs had also been further refined.

12. The format of the report had been adjusted to enhance the presentation of information, and additional improvements, including more focused explanations of significant variances, would be incorporated into the next overview report. A pilot streamlined report of the Secretary-General on the UNMISS budget for 2012/13 would also be submitted to the Committee for its consideration at the current session.

13. As requested by the General Assembly in its resolutions 64/269 and 65/289, chapter IV of the report provided information on the impact of exchange rate fluctuations on peacekeeping budgets, highlighting that only 10 per cent of peacekeeping operations expenditures had been in currencies other than the United States dollar in 2009/10 and 2010/11. Given the limited exposure of peacekeeping expenditures to currency fluctuations, measures to protect peacekeeping operations from such risks appeared to be unnecessary. However, the Treasurer had been requested to study the possibility of protecting missions against the risk of currency fluctuation where disbursements in euros represented more than 50 per cent of their total expenditures, as was the case at the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

(UNFICYP), the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the United Nations Logistics Base.

14. **Mr. Banbury** (Assistant Secretary-General for Field Support), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the global field support strategy (A/66/591 and Add.1), said that he hoped the impact of the strategy would be evident in the course of the upcoming discussions on the support account for peacekeeping operations, mission budgets, the Logistics Base and the Secretary-General's overview report on the financing of peacekeeping operations, all of which involved complex and interconnected issues.

15. The proposed 2012/13 budget for peacekeeping operations, the support account and the Global Service Centre was nearly 6 per cent less than the approved budget for 2011/12, reflecting the Secretariat's efforts to improve the cost-effectiveness of peacekeeping operations without compromising the activities and mandate delivery of individual missions. The cost reductions were evidence of the cultural change within the Department of Field Support generated by the global field support strategy.

16. The budget savings were the product of a thorough analysis conducted by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Field Support and peacekeeping missions that had taken into account the particular operational and political circumstances of each mission. Efforts to reduce costs had focused on three areas: achieving sustainable efficiencies in consumption and other operating costs, such as fuel, aircraft, spare parts, travel and rotation of military contingents; reducing and deferring acquisition of major equipment and construction of facilities where possible, including by redistributing existing assets; and right-sizing the resource requirements of missions that had been reduced in size or were likely to enter a transitional phase in the future.

17. New and additional resources had been requested as required, including to support the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia (UNSOA) and to continue to deploy UNMISS and UNISFA. Despite the challenges facing those missions, he was confident that they would be met while maintaining the Organization's commitment to mission capability and mandate delivery.

18. Progress had been made during the first two years of the five-year implementation of the global field support strategy, which had the goal of improving service delivery to missions and to the military, police and civilian personnel that carried out the difficult work of peacekeeping. Those efforts involved considerable challenges, ranging from working in complex and volatile operational environments to meeting increased demand for specialized capabilities, and necessitated greater organizational flexibility. The global field support strategy offered appropriate guidance to the Secretariat in meeting those challenges.

19. The strategy had to account for the wide array of operations assisted by the Department of Field Support — which included large, multi-dimensional missions such as the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and hybrid operations such as UNAMID — and the Department's other functions, such as providing logistical support to African Union troops in Somalia, supervising the recently deployed mission in Syria and supporting the full range of special political missions around the world. The numerous peacekeeping operations were in a continuous state of flux, and demanded responsive, flexible and effective support solutions.

20. While operations were starting up in one region, other missions were transitioning or being phased down in other parts of the world. In 2011 alone, UNMISS and UNISFA had been established and the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) had been liquidated. In Syria, the Department had ensured that its full range of support capabilities was on the ground before observers arrived, while in Timor-Leste, UNMIT was preparing to downsize and hand over its responsibilities to national authorities and other partners pending the successful conduct of elections. At the same time, United Nations police were taking on enhanced security responsibilities in Haiti and human rights officers were helping to pursue accountability in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

21. Ensuring the safety and security of personnel was another great challenge. In 2011, 113 peacekeepers had perished as a result of targeted attacks, violence, banditry, natural disasters, plane crashes, accidents and illness. The volatile circumstances and harsh terrains of peacekeeping missions combined with the unfair targeting of the United Nations by extremists had

resulted in increasingly dangerous operating environments. The Department had been obliged to introduce stronger security systems and safety measures and was grateful to Member States for their investments in the protection of personnel. However, based on recent events in South Sudan, Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, he remained deeply concerned for the safety and well-being of field staff, who were too often asked to place themselves in harm's way. Staff must be guaranteed the highest feasible level of security.

22. A range of tools was needed to meet the tremendous demands of the ever-changing peacekeeping environment and the expectations of stakeholders. Peacekeeping missions needed better services, which Member States expected and the Department was committed to providing. The global field support strategy offered a new framework focused on mission-oriented service delivery, which defined peacekeeping troops and police as the Department's clients, made staff safety and security a major priority, and introduced structural efficiencies into every aspect of the Department's work.

23. The major achievements in implementing the strategy to date would serve as the foundation for the Department's future work. The service delivery model, which had been endorsed by the General Assembly, called for Headquarters to focus on strategy, policy development and management oversight in order to improve services, based on Member States' priorities. He stressed that none of those functions were among those proposed for transfer away from Headquarters.

24. He agreed with the majority of the views expressed by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations (A/66/718) concerning the global field support strategy and the work of the Department of Field Support. The Advisory Committee's recommendations on performance measurement, structural improvements, key performance indicators and benchmarking required the focus of the Department at Headquarters. However, it was important to remember that as long as the Department was also responsible for providing operational support to 29 field missions, it would be difficult to provide the managerial and human resources required to design and implement the major changes desired.

25. The Department's staff members were called upon to discharge many functions: implement the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS); roll out the enterprise resource planning project, Umoja; and provide critical support to operations in volatile area; all while designing new system, managing structural reform and measuring their own performance. At the same time, the Department's share of the support account for peacekeeping had decreased, to a proposed 20 per cent of account resources in 2012/13, compared with 26 per cent in 2007/08.

26. Furthermore, the Department was pursuing its ambitious initiatives with a progressively smaller share of the Organization's resources. The impact of the global field support strategy was evident in the decrease in the overall costs for peacekeeping personnel: before the introduction of the strategy, when adjusted for inflation, per capita costs of uniformed personnel in 2008/09 had been 14 per cent higher than those estimated for 2012/13. Thus, despite the absence of quantifiable performance indicators, there was evidence that the global field support strategy was enabling the United Nations to do better with less.

27. In order to facilitate a more strategic focus within the Department of Field Support at Headquarters, the Global Service Centre was taking on increased operational service delivery activities, particularly in the areas of global asset management, integrated support services to the field, and design and delivery of the modularization programme. The Centre, which was proposed as a unified model to be deployed in two locations, consolidated the Organization's capacity to better support multi-dimensional field missions. In 2011, the Global Service Centre had enabled the rapid deployment of troops in remote and dangerous areas in Somalia through the delivery of modular service packages. The transfer of liquidated equipment from UNMIS and the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) for use in the deployment of UNMISS and UNISFA had maximized resource use at the regional level. In addition, by acting as the Brindisi-based special headquarters for the newly established United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), the Centre was providing an array of services, through both on-the-ground mission support teams and remote services, which allowed the Mission to better focus its efforts on the implementation of its mandate.

28. Similarly, the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe had begun to conduct back-office, financial and human resources functions for the seven peacekeeping and political missions it supported, which had standardized processes and enabled the application of performance measurement frameworks to monitor and report on improvements. Those initiatives were being conducted in conjunction with the planning for implementation of IPSAS and Umoja, which would greatly facilitate the data collection needed to report on improvements and efficiency gains. Based on the success of the Entebbe Centre, the Secretary-General was proposing the establishment of two additional regional service centres to serve missions in West Africa and the Middle East. The Department would be presenting options and proposals for the establishment of those centres to the General Assembly, based on the criteria set out in its resolution 64/269.

29. It was important to recall that the long-term, comprehensive initiative embodied in the global field support strategy was only in its second year of implementation; the foundations were being established while still prioritizing the delivery of tangible results to missions. As noted by the Board of Auditors, the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the Advisory Committee, standard project management methodology had not always been followed during implementation of the strategy. That had been owing in part to the lack of data-collection tools and systems, a situation that would be greatly improved by the roll-out of IPSAS and Umoja. Nevertheless, the business case and cost-benefit analysis, the development of key performance indicators and the performance measurement systems for the strategy described in the Secretary-General's report (A/66/591 and Add.1) were among the most advanced and rigorous of projects designed and initiated by the Secretariat.

30. The Department of Field Support remained committed to making improvements, implementing recommendations and working with Member States to ensure the success of the global field support strategy. It was developing an implementation plan which would include clear goals, timelines, key activities, milestones and project deliverables, the end-state strategy under each pillar, cost-benefit analyses, a performance measurement framework with targets and benchmarks, a risk management framework and a review of governance arrangements. The Department had also taken note of the Advisory Committee's

observation that the current arrangements had resulted in piecemeal reporting that made it difficult to assess progress, and would pursue alternative reporting arrangements in future.

31. He hoped that the Department's responses to the questions raised by the Advisory Committee would serve as a useful basis for discussion. The Department would continue to make every effort to produce the information required by the Fifth Committee in a timely and accurate manner.

32. **Ms. de Miranda** (Office of Human Resources Management), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (A/66/699), said that the report had been submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 57/306 and presented the data collected by the Office of Human Resources Management concerning allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse within the United Nations system from 1 January to 31 December 2011. The General Assembly was requested to take note of the report.

33. Details were provided of the number and type of allegations and the initiatives undertaken to strengthen preventive measures and enforce United Nations standards on conduct related to sexual exploitation and abuse. Overall, the number of allegations had decreased by 12 per cent, from 116 allegations reported in 2010 to 102 in 2011. As in previous years, the majority of allegations involved staff in peacekeeping missions. There had been 74 allegations relating to that category of staff in 2011, the lowest number reported to date, compared to 357 allegations in 2006 and 85 in 2010.

34. The decline in the number of allegations could be attributed to measures undertaken to combat sexual exploitation and abuse, particularly in respect of military personnel. Enhanced training and awareness-raising combined with the implementation of preventive measures, such as the institution of off-limit areas and curfews, had also been contributing factors.

35. Following the results of a global review completed in June 2010, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Force on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse had taken a number of initiatives to support field activities and to demonstrate the commitment of its members to preventing sexual exploitation and abuse. Conduct and discipline teams

from the Department of Field Support also continued to develop and implement measures relating to prevention, enforcement and remedial action. The teams' activities included training staff in prevention measures, establishing reporting mechanisms, supporting the development of guidelines for conduct and discipline practitioners in the field, and producing awareness-raising and public information materials. The Secretary-General remained committed to preventing, in partnership with Member States, the perpetration of acts of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations staff and related personnel.

36. **Mr. Kelapile** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's report on observations and recommendations on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations (A/66/718), said that the report also included observations and recommendations on the Secretary-General's report on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (A/66/699) and his report on the implementation of the global field support strategy (A/66/591 and Add.1).

37. With regard to cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations, the Advisory Committee welcomed the critical examination of capital expenditures and identification of cross-cutting targets for resource reductions in the proposed 2012/13 budgets, taking account of the particular circumstances of each mission. While the proposed budgets reflected positive results from those efforts, more information should have been provided regarding the ways in which the resource-reduction measures would be applied in each mission, including any measures to ensure that mandate implementation was not affected. Some of the proposals reflected a deferral of capital expenditures, which would potentially need to be restored in the next financial period. The Advisory Committee encouraged the Secretary-General to continue to identify sustainable efficiencies in peacekeeping operations without undermining the operational requirements of mission or mandate implementation.

38. The Advisory Committee welcomed the initial positive effects, including a reduction in vacancy rates in field missions, resulting from implementation of the human resources management reform measures approved by the General Assembly. It expected that a full analysis of the ongoing impact of the reforms

would be provided in future reports to the Assembly. Efforts should be made to ensure that the vacancy rates in field missions continued to decline. In addition, the continued need for posts that had been vacant for two or more years should be rejustified. The Advisory Committee made a number of observations and recommendations on training in peacekeeping. In particular, the Advisory Committee was concerned about the lack of data on training activities and the high proportion of resources requested for training-related travel.

39. With respect to operational costs, the Advisory Committee noted that the proposed passenger vehicle and information technology holdings by missions were significantly higher than the allocation that would result from the application of the standard ratios established by the Department of Field Support. It recommended that the holdings of both categories of equipment should be reviewed so as to align them with standard ratios. However, the Advisory Committee also recognized that mission-specific operational circumstances could justify exceeding standard ratios; in such cases, justification should be clearly outlined in the budget proposals.

40. The prolonged delays in the implementation of a number of electronic management systems deemed necessary for the effective management of peacekeeping operations, most notably in the areas of fuel, rations and air operations management, were also a matter of concern. The consistent pattern of delays highlighted systemic weaknesses in the planning and oversight of such initiatives, which must be addressed as a matter of priority.

41. The Advisory Committee had been informed that the 2012/13 requirements for aviation fuel for each mission had been calculated using a standard rate of fuel consumption for each aircraft type, based on a 10-year average consumption rate. It was of the view that the methodology for the budgeting of aviation fuel required further review and that further consideration should be given to whether the use of a standard rate was the best method of determining each mission's needs. The Board of Auditors should review the issue.

42. Although the Advisory Committee had noted the downward trend in the number of allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse involving peacekeeping personnel, it remained concerned about the number of allegations reported, particularly those involving the

most egregious forms of sexual exploitation and abuse. There was a need for sustained joint efforts by the Secretary-General and troop- and police-contributing countries to bring about improvements in that regard. The lack of progress reported regarding assistance and support to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse was also a matter of concern. Given the importance of system-wide efforts to implement the strategy approved by the General Assembly, the Advisory Committee expected the Secretary-General to exert his leadership as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to ensure coordinated action.

43. The Secretary-General's report on progress in implementation of the global field support strategy (A/66/591 and Add.1) should be considered in conjunction with reports containing related proposals, in particular the proposed budgets for the United Nations Logistics Base and the support account for the reprofiling of the Base as the Global Service Centre, which involved the transfer of functions from Headquarters to Brindisi, and the proposed budgets for MONUSCO, UNMISS, UNAMID, UNISFA and UNSOA for the transfer of functions from the missions to the Regional Service Centre, as well as the Advisory Committee's related reports. In addition, the Fifth Committee should take into account the Board of Auditors' assessment of the planning, development and initial roll-out of the global field support strategy, including threats to its successful delivery, contained in the Advisory Committee's related report (A/66/719), and the six recommendations made by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) in its audit of the implementation of the global field support strategy (A/66/714).

44. The Advisory Committee continued to support the broad goals of the global field support strategy for transforming service delivery to field missions through greater use of common and shared services and global management of resources; improving timeliness and quality of service; enhancing the safety and living conditions of personnel; and achieving greater efficiency and economies of scale. However, the Advisory Committee had experienced difficulties in assessing progress in the implementation of the strategy, mainly owing to the timing of and lack of detail in the Secretary-General's progress report, which covered only a few months of activity, resulting in a piecemeal and incomplete reporting process. The

Secretary-General was requested to improve the reporting process in order to ensure better consideration of the annual progress report.

45. The report lacked much of the information the Advisory Committee had requested in its earlier reports, which had been endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolutions 64/269 and 65/289. The Advisory Committee continued to emphasize the need for a comprehensive plan and end-state vision for the implementation of the four pillars of the strategy over the five-year implementation period; cost-benefit analyses to support decision-making; a performance management framework; and an assessment of completed initiatives and lessons learned during the initial implementation phases.

46. The Advisory Committee also emphasized the importance of accurate and reliable data for baseline and performance measures. It recommended that, in future reporting on benefits and cost savings, relevant supporting information should be provided to clearly demonstrate the cause and effect relationships between the actions undertaken and the resulting benefits and savings. There was also a need to ensure coherence, complementarity and a coordinated implementation approach between the global field support strategy and other management reform initiatives currently under way, including the roll-out of Umoja and IPSAS.

47. The Secretary-General was encouraged to continue strengthening the governance framework, administrative arrangements and accountability mechanisms of the global field support strategy so as to ensure that the various components of the governance framework could effectively exercise their respective roles.

48. With regard to the financial framework, the Advisory Committee recommended against the Secretary-General's proposal to develop funding models for the drawdown and liquidation phases of missions. In its view, the constraints and conditions pertaining to peacekeeping operations at start-up were not applicable to those phases. In addition, any further development of standardized funding models should take into account the outcome of the evaluation of the first application of the standardized model to the initial UNMISS budget. Pending the completion of such a study, the Advisory Committee also recommended against application of the standardized funding model to new start-up missions.

49. Concerning predefined modules and service packages, the Advisory Committee had been informed that a five-year modularization plan in three phases had been developed in close consultation with the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and field missions. While acknowledging the effort made to present information on the implementation of the first modules for a 200-person camp and a set of performance indicators for the modularization pillar, it stressed the need for further refinement of the performance management framework and collection of accurate and reliable data for baselines and performance measures. The Advisory Committee also noted that the progress report did not reflect the full costs related to the modularization programme and recommended that the Secretary-General should be requested to provide, in his next progress report, a comprehensive analysis of costs and benefits of the various projects implemented under the modularization pillar, including the cost of materials and equipment sourced from inventories of existing strategic deployment stocks to produce the modular camps.

50. With regard to the reprofiling of the United Nations Logistics Base as the Global Service Centre, the Advisory Committee wished to reiterate its requests made in previous reports (A/64/660 and A/65/743) that the Secretary-General should provide a comprehensive plan showing the envisaged configuration of the Global Service Centre, as well as information on the envisaged organizational structure and staffing of the Department of Field Support at the end of the reprofiling process, including clarification of the division of roles between Headquarters, the Global Service Centre, the Regional Service Centre and field missions. The Secretary-General was also requested to provide information on the criteria for determining the optimum location from which functions and services could be provided, with details of expected improvements in the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery through the relocation of functions.

51. The progress report stated that the Global Service Centre was a unified concept that would be deployed in two locations: Brindisi, Italy, for the delivery of service expertise in logistics and information and communications technology; and Valencia, Spain, for the delivery of service expertise in the areas of field personnel management, budget and finance. The Advisory Committee considered that, notwithstanding the evolutionary nature of the global field support

strategy, the proposed modified concept for the deployment of the Global Service Centre in two geographically distinct locations constituted a major change from the initial proposals for the strategy, with potentially significant organizational and financial implications. The information in the progress report was insufficient to allow for a fully considered and informed decision on the merits of the proposal; any shift in the concept of the Centre should be based on in-depth analysis of the requirement for a new site and a thorough cost-benefit analysis, including consideration of alternative options.

52. Furthermore, it should be recalled that the General Assembly had not taken any other action relating to the facility at Valencia subsequent to approving, in its resolution 63/262, the Secretary-General's proposal to host a secondary active telecommunications facility to support peacekeeping activities. The Advisory Committee was therefore of the opinion that, absent the requisite policy decision by the General Assembly, it was premature for the Secretary-General to present proposals for deployment of resources to the Global Service Centre based on a concept of two locations.

53. Concerning the Secretary-General's proposal to transfer an additional four functions from the Logistics Support Division at Headquarters to the Global Service Centre, the Advisory Committee recognized the merits of integrating logistics functions and providing centralized services to field missions in areas such as strategic deployment stocks, centralized warehousing and global asset and material management. It therefore recommended approval of the proposed transfer of four functions from the Logistics Support Division, together with the related 23 posts and positions. An update on the status of the transfer of four functions and eight related posts approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/291 from Headquarters to the Global Service Centre effective 1 July 2011 was provided in the Advisory Committee's report on the 2012/13 proposed budget for the Logistics Base (A/66/718/Add. 15).

54. With regard to field personnel management, the Advisory Committee recommended against the Secretary-General's proposal to establish a Field Human Resources Management Section in Valencia and the relocation from Brindisi to Valencia of the Field Central Review Board Unit, the Reference Verification Unit and the Education Grant Unit, with their associated 13 posts. It also recommended against

the transfer of the Roster Management Unit with 27 related posts and positions from Headquarters to the Global Service Centre. Further analysis was required to determine whether the roster management function met the Secretary-General's criteria for the relocation of functions to the Global Service Centre.

55. With regard to the Regional Service Centre at Entebbe, the Advisory Committee noted the efforts that had been made to report on performance and realization of savings through the implementation of the four pilot projects under phase I. However, there was a need for further improvement in the presentation of the performance data and formulation of indicators and for a clear demonstration of the cause and effect relationships between the measures undertaken and the resulting benefits and savings. In addition, given that the Secretary-General was reporting on the performance of the Regional Service Centre for the first time, information should have been provided on the lessons learned during the establishment of the Centre, specifically, concerning the relocation of posts and functions from peacekeeping operations, and the ways in which the relocation had led, or should lead, to economies of scale or improved quality of service.

56. Phase II of the establishment of the Centre had been initiated on 1 July 2011 and was ongoing, involving the transfer of 160 posts from client missions to the Centre to perform financial and human resources management functions. The Advisory Committee noted that the Centre would be re-engineering the missions' related processes, practices and systems, and aligning them with Umoja. It expected the re-engineering of functions to result in streamlined processes, productivity gains and cost efficiencies, including a reduction in administrative and finance posts. The Advisory Committee emphasized the importance of maintaining high quality in service delivery throughout the process, as well as responsiveness to the needs of the military, police and civilian components of field missions.

57. The Advisory Committee noted that the proposed share of the 2012/13 estimated resource requirements for the Regional Service Centre at Entebbe provided in the budgets of individual missions amounted to \$28.6 million, some \$870,000 less than the amount of \$29.5 million in the addendum to the progress report (A/66/591/Add.1). The variance reflected an increase of \$1.3 million under civilian personnel for UNMISS, offset in part by a decrease of \$444,000 under operational costs. The Advisory Committee had been

informed that the estimates included in the addendum had been revised subsequent to the finalization of the proposed 2012/13 budgets of the client missions to reflect the most accurate information available. The situation illustrated the timing issues noted earlier and the need to improve the reporting process.

58. Given that the Regional Service Centre was to be staffed through redeployments from field missions, and that an average deployment rate of 36 per cent was projected for the current period for all categories of personnel, the Advisory Committee recommended that the resources provided by participating missions in 2012/13 for civilian personnel assigned to the Centre should not exceed the amounts presented in their respective budgets. Furthermore, taking into account the Secretary-General's statement that the operational costs listed in the addendum to the progress report reflected the most accurate information available, the Advisory Committee also recommended that the requirements for operational costs in the 2012/13 proposed budgets of the participating missions should be aligned with the amounts indicated in the addendum to the progress report, and reduced accordingly. Owing to timing issues, the Advisory Committee's reports on the 2012/13 proposed budgets of the participating missions had been finalized before its report on cross-cutting issues and thus did not reflect its recommendation in the context of the Regional Service Centre. The Advisory Committee recommended that updated totals for the 2012/13 budget proposals for MONUSCO, UNAMID, UNISFA, UNMISS and UNSOA should be provided to the Fifth Committee at the time of its consideration of the budgets of those missions.

59. The Secretary-General was requesting the General Assembly to endorse the concept of regional service centres to serve missions in West Africa and the Middle East. The Advisory Committee considered that proposals for the establishment of additional regional service centres must be based on a thorough evaluation of the requirement for such centres. Should the Secretary-General decide to put proposals for new service centres before the General Assembly, he should submit a well-justified study clarifying the rationale for their establishment, with alternative options and their related costs and benefits, as well as details of the site selection criteria and the factors taken into account in the recommended site choices. The Secretary-General should also provide a comparative analysis vis-à-vis

the existing arrangements for inter-mission cooperation in West Africa and in the Middle East. He should also assess whether the model of the Regional Service Centre at Entebbe, which served several large and complex missions, was applicable to missions in other regions with different profiles and operating environments, and, in particular, whether it was well suited to the requirements of the missions in West Africa or the Middle East.

60. **Ms. Lapointe** (Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services), introducing the report on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services related to peacekeeping operations during the period from 1 January to 31 December 2011 (A/66/286 (Part II)), said that the report provided an overview of the work of the three OIOS Divisions: Internal Audit, Investigations, and Inspection and Evaluation. She welcomed the establishment of the post of Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services. An appointment had been made: the new incumbent, who would soon be assuming his duties, had nearly three decades of oversight experience. His leadership would ensure that OIOS delivered objective and professional oversight results.

61. OIOS vacancy rates had improved: in April 2012, the vacancy rate for OIOS peacekeeping investigations had been 24 per cent, down from 28 per cent in September 2010. However, it was clear that attracting and retaining staff in non-family peacekeeping locations remained a challenge in view of the competitive hiring environment and the absence of rotation policies. In contrast, the vacancy rate for posts funded under the regular budget was 8 per cent. The overall vacancy rate for OIOS had also decreased, having fallen from 25 per cent in September 2010 to the current rate of 16.8 per cent. Factoring in recent recruitments and expected departures, there was a projected rate of 14.4 per cent.

62. In 2011, OIOS had issued nearly 200 reports on peacekeeping matters. Sexual exploitation and abuse, predominantly involving uniformed personnel, remained a major area of concern; 34 per cent of completed OIOS investigations in 2011 had been related to the issue, and of those, 60 per cent had involved MONUSCO. Sexual exploitation and abuse tainted the good work and reputation of the United Nations and victimized the people it was mandated to protect, including children. The Organization had a moral obligation to put an end to such distressing

occurrences. For its part, OIOS would continue to ensure that allegations were properly investigated. Member States also had a role to play in pursuing appropriate follow-up action in accordance with the related memorandum of understanding for troop-contributing countries. OIOS had begun to review the implementation of that memorandum of understanding to determine the levels of compliance and its effectiveness in ensuring accountability in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

63. The report also covered a range of other matters including oversight results, aviation safety, cooperation between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support, human resources reform initiatives, information and communications technology, inventory management, contingent-owned equipment, safety and security, business continuity and procurement management.

64. In 2012, OIOS had been examining the ways in which it could improve its own operations and had convened expert panels to review its investigation, inspection and evaluation activities. The Office was also assessing its structures, in order to better deliver on its mandates, and the communications strategies and tools it employed with all stakeholders, including staff members.

65. The first OIOS quarterly activity report for the Secretary-General, the Management Committee and the Independent Audit Advisory Committee was being finalized. It provided information on progress on committed work plans and analytical and performance indicators, such as the use of allocated resources and the timeliness of reports. It also outlined critical oversight issues arising during the quarter and reported on progress by management in implementing committed actions to address issues previously raised, including on overdue action plans. The report would help to direct the attention of senior management to high-priority matters and enhance transparency regarding the effectiveness of OIOS in managing oversight activities.

66. Introducing the OIOS report on the audit of the implementation of the global field support strategy (A/66/714), she noted that, in the opinion of OIOS, the overall results of the implementation of the strategy to date had been only partially satisfactory. Since implementation was in its early stages, the audit had focused on the adequacy and effectiveness of

arrangements in the areas of governance, risk management, strategic planning, programme management, coordinated management and communications.

67. The Department of Field Support had established a governance framework comprising various committees and working groups to oversee the implementation of the strategy and was finalizing an end-state vision of the configuration and organizational structure for field support. However, it was evident that there was a need to strengthen committee structures and reporting lines, and to implement a comprehensive framework to monitor and manage the identified risks associated with the global field support strategy.

68. The Department had developed a methodology to identify and propose ownership of processes among Headquarters, field missions and the global and regional service centres. However, there was a need for criteria to assess and determine the qualitative benefits of implementing the global field support strategy. In addition, the Department had not established a performance management framework to link performance indicators and targets to overall strategic goals.

69. The Department had engaged with intergovernmental bodies on the general development and strategic direction of the global field support strategy. Nevertheless, mechanisms for communication and engagement with Secretariat staff and internal stakeholders needed improvement, an issue expected to be resolved once the Human Resources Response Task Force was fully functional.

70. OIOS had issued a total of six recommendations, all of which were being implemented by the Department of Field Support. Despite the shortcomings noted at the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, she welcomed the progress made to date and the potential for future activities at the site. OIOS itself was taking advantage of the Centre's location and facilities to provide more cost-effective training to both internal auditors of peacekeeping operations and non-OIOS staff involved in investigations.

71. **The Chair** drew attention to a letter dated 25 February 2011 from the Chair of the 2011 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment to the Chair of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/66/8), transmitting to the General Assembly the 2011 edition of the Contingent-Owned Equipment Manual.

positions related to the surge following the elections and the post-electoral crisis and recommended the further abolition of 3 of the 10 temporary positions that had been approved in the context of the supplementary estimates for UNOCI in the 2011/12 period and that were proposed to be continued in 2012/13.

23. Under operational costs, the Advisory Committee recommended that the provision for travel in connection with training should be reduced to the level of the appropriation for 2011/12. The absence of a finalized disarmament, demobilization and reintegration framework and the fact that the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme had experienced delays in the past suggested that the total amount proposed for the programme would not be required during the 2012/13 period. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended that the proposed amount should be reduced to \$20 million and encouraged the Operation to implement related activities as expeditiously as possible. Should additional funding be necessary, the Operation should report thereon in the context of the performance report.

24. The Advisory Committee had been informed that the implementation of the recommendations arising from the assessment of UNOCI contained in the special report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (S/2012/186) would result in an overall reduction of the requirements for the 2012/13 period in an estimated amount of \$10.6 million. It expected that the General Assembly would be informed of the financial and administrative implications for the 2012/13 period arising from any decision of the Security Council with respect to the assessment of UNOCI.

25. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the budget performance for 2010/11 and proposed budget for 2012/13 of UNFICYP (A/66/718/Add.9), he said that the Advisory Committee's recommendation against the proposed upward reclassification of the post of Force Commander would entail a reduction of \$22,800 in the proposed budget for 2012/13. The Advisory Committee reiterated its concern at the persistent precariousness of the Force's financial situation and the potential impact on the timely reimbursement of troop-contributing countries. It recalled the General Assembly's repeated calls for all Member States to fulfil their financial obligations on time, in full and without conditions, as set out in the

Charter. The report also contained the Advisory Committee's comments and observations on demining activities, camp maintenance services, construction projects and efficiency gains.

26. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the budget performance for 2010/11 and proposed budget for 2012/13 of MONUSCO (A/66/718/Add.14 and Corr.1), he said that the Advisory Committee noted that the proposed budget for 2012/13 did not include provisions for the technical assistance and support MONUSCO would be required to provide for the conduct of provincial elections. It therefore expected that MONUSCO would draw from its accumulated experience in providing such support and that, should additional resources to support elections in 2012/13 be required, any request would be limited to the minimum resources necessary.

27. Recalling its previous comments on the importance of the functions performed by the Community Liaison Assistants (A/65/743/Add.8, para. 39), and in view of the expanded area of responsibility envisaged for such personnel in 2012/13, the Advisory Committee recommended approval of 113 national General Service positions in the Civil Affairs Section to serve as Community Liaison Assistants. Noting that the Secretary-General also proposed to reassign 49 national General Service language assistant posts to serve as Community Liaison Assistants, the Advisory Committee expected that, should the need arise, any additional requirement for the provision of language assistance to military personnel would be met from approved resources.

28. During its consideration of the proposed budget for MONUSCO, the Advisory Committee had been informed that the two national posts it had proposed to abolish would be needed by the Mission in 2012/13 in order to coordinate medical evacuations with hospitals in Pretoria. In view of the clarification provided, the Advisory Committee saw merit in keeping the functions of one of those posts in Pretoria, under general temporary assistance from within proposed resources, while MONUSCO identified suitable arrangements for services for medical evacuation. The Advisory Committee had no objection to the redeployment of 38 posts and positions and related functions to the Regional Service Centre at Entebbe, as proposed by the Secretary-General.

29. The Advisory Committee regretted that the planning assumptions underpinning the integrated Mission headquarters project, which was to have been initiated in the 2010/11 period, had had to be revisited, and that the project had been suspended, in spite of the assurances provided to the Advisory Committee during its consideration of the 2011/12 MONUSCO budget. It expected that the updated cost-benefit analysis of the integrated Mission headquarters project, as well as a time frame for its implementation, would be submitted, if necessary, in the context of the proposed budget for 2013/14.

30. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the budget performance for 2010/11 and proposed budget for 2012/13 of MINUSTAH (A/66/718/Add.11), he said that the Advisory Committee recommended approval of the proposed budget of MINUSTAH for the 2012/13 period, amounting to \$644.4 million. The Advisory Committee took note of the partial drawdown of the post-earthquake surge in military and police capabilities and remained of the opinion that the Secretary-General should examine the long-term necessity of maintaining the Santo Domingo Support Office, established in the aftermath of the earthquake. In that regard, the Advisory Committee took note of the recently completed high-level functional review analysis of the Office and looked forward to receiving the Secretary-General's report on the outcome of the exercise.

31. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the budget performance for 2010/11 and proposed budget for 2012/13 of UNMIK (A/66/718/Add.7), he said that the Advisory Committee recommended approval of the proposed budget in the amount of \$47 million. However, it noted with concern that, as at 13 February 2012, the cash position of the Mission had amounted to \$5.1 million, some \$6.1 million short of the three-month operating cash reserve of \$11.2 million. UNMIK was also urged to settle its two pending death and disability claims as soon as possible.

32. The proposed budget included a reduction of ten posts, including two reassignments. The Advisory Committee did not recommend the approval of the two reassignments as it considered that the offices to which the posts would be reassigned could perform the functions within their existing capacity.

33. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the budget performance for 2010/11 and proposed

budget for 2012/13 of UNMIL (A/66/718/Add.13), he said that the Advisory Committee recommended approval of the Secretary-General's proposed budget for 2012/13. Noting that a technical assessment mission had been deployed to Liberia in February 2012 in order to analyse various transition reconfiguration strategies for the Mission following the 2011 elections, the Advisory Committee expected that the General Assembly would be informed at the earliest opportunity of the financial and administrative implications for the 2012/13 budget period of any decision of the Security Council with respect to the technical assessment mission. Should those implications be significant, the Secretary-General should consider submitting a revised budget to cover the Mission's requirements for the remainder of 2012/13.

34. The Advisory Committee welcomed the progress made by UNMIL towards meeting gender balance targets, as well as the good level of cooperation it maintained with other United Nations entities in the region. In particular, UNMIL was to be commended for the support it had provided to UNOCI during the post-electoral crisis in Côte d'Ivoire. The Advisory Committee's report also contained its observations on a number of other issues, including staffing matters, efficiency gains, construction projects and the "Delivering as one" initiative.

35. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the proposed budget for 2012/13 of UNMISS (A/66/718/Add.17), he said that the recommendations of the Advisory Committee would entail a reduction of \$126,200 in the proposed budget. The Advisory Committee had noted with concern that the Mission's cash position, amounting to \$78.7 million, was \$44.0 million short of the three-month operating cash reserve of \$122.7 million.

36. The Secretary-General had broadly attributed the variance between the budget for 2011/12 and projected expenditures for 2012/13 to the fact that the 2011/12 UNMISS budget had been formulated using the standardized funding model. The appropriated levels of resources for 2011/12 did not provide a suitable baseline for analysis of the impact of variances or of the proposed requirements for the 2012/13 period. The Advisory Committee further noted that it was difficult to assess the extent to which the planned outcomes for the current period were being achieved.

the basis of current projections, cash balances at the end of 2012 should almost match the actual cash balances at the end of 2011. However, the final outcome would depend on Member States continuing to honour their financial obligations to the Tribunals.

16. As at 7 May 2012, 188 Member States had made payments totalling \$1.86 billion in respect of assessments issued under the special account established for the capital master plan, with \$8 million still outstanding. Furthermore, as at the same date, 183 Member States had made payments to the working capital reserve of \$45 million also established under the capital master plan account; that reserve was now almost fully funded, with a balance outstanding of \$8.785. As at 7 May 2012, 142 Member States had fully paid their capital master plan assessments, 46 Member States had made partial payments and 4 had not yet made any payments.

17. In conclusion, he paid a special tribute to those Member States that had paid in full all assessments due and payable as at 7 May 2012 for the regular budget, peacekeeping operations, the international tribunals and the capital master plan. The financial situation at the end of 2011 had shown improvement in some areas despite the global financial climate. Although unpaid assessments were higher than at the end of 2010, the number of Member States meeting their obligations in full had increased in all categories, the cash situation was better in most areas and the level of debt to Member States was slightly lower than the previous year. There had been further encouraging signs of progress in the Organization's financial position in 2012, and the latest situation reflected the continued emphasis on improving Member States' access to information on the status of contributions. As at 7 May 2012, unpaid assessments were below the levels of one year earlier across all categories, resulting in a total decrease of over \$600 million. However, some peacekeeping operations continued to be affected by cash shortages, which also had an impact on the timing of payments to troop-contributing countries. Furthermore, a significant level of outstanding assessments remained and the final outcome for 2012 would depend largely on action to be taken by the Member States responsible for them. As always, the Organization's financial health depended on Member States meeting their financial obligations in full and on time.

Agenda item 146: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (continued)

Support account for peacekeeping operations (A/66/610 and Add.1, A/66/721, A/66/737, A/66/755 and A/66/779 and Add.1)

United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi (A/66/603, A/66/724 and A/66/718/Add.15)

18. **Ms. Casar** (Controller), introducing the performance report on the budget of the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (A/66/610 and Add.1), said that the approved budget for the support account for that period had amounted to \$363.8 million, while expenditure for the period had amounted to \$341.4 million, leaving an unutilized balance of \$22.4 million, for an implementation rate of 93.8 per cent. The unutilized balance was primarily attributable to higher than budgeted actual vacancy rates for civilian personnel, including temporary positions, and lower than budgeted requirements for information technology.

19. Introducing the proposed budget for the support account for 2012/13 (A/66/721), which amounted to \$320.5 million, she said that the proposed resources represented a reduction of 7.1 per cent over the resources of \$344.8 million approved for 2011/12. The budget included \$37.3 million for the financing of the Umoja enterprise resource planning project, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 66/246 and the estimates presented by the Secretary-General in his third progress report on Umoja (A/66/381). Excluding the Umoja requirement for both periods, the proposed budget was 4.9 per cent lower than the approved budget for 2011/12.

20. The proposal for 2012/13 did not provide for new posts. Continuing general temporary assistance positions for recurring functions had not been proposed for conversion into posts, as options for redeploying and reassigning existing resources were still being reviewed. An effort had also been made to adapt the use of temporary positions for specific time-bound initiatives. The key variances were mainly attributable to a reduction of 36 posts, 34 of which corresponded to functions proposed for transfer from the Department of Field Support at Headquarters to the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi (Global Service Centre); reduced requirements for temporary positions, partly owing to the proposed transfer of resources from the

Department of Field Support to the Global Service Centre; and a reduced provision for information technology. Those reductions had been partially offset by increased requirements under consultants and under other supplies, services and equipment.

21. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly in respect of the financing of the support account were set out in paragraph 93 of the budget performance report (A/66/610) and paragraph 699 of the budget report (A/66/721).

22. Introducing the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (A/66/603), she said that the approved budget for 2010/11 had amounted to \$68.2 million. Expenditure for the period had amounted to \$68.1 million, leaving an unutilized balance of \$53,900, for an implementation rate of 99.9 per cent.

23. The proposed budget for the Logistics Base for 2012/13 (A/66/724) amounted to \$70.5 million, representing an increase of 2.8 per cent compared to the approved budget of \$68.5 million for 2011/12. The key variances were the proposed transfer of logistics and human resources functions from the Department of Field Support at Headquarters to the Global Service Centre, in line with the global field support strategy and the reprofiling of the Logistics Base. In that regard, it was proposed that 34 posts and 16 general temporary assistance positions would be established at the Global Service Centre in 2012/13 and concurrently abolished in the support account.

24. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly in respect of the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base were set out in paragraph 31 of the budget performance report (A/66/603) and paragraph 97 of the budget report (A/66/724).

25. **Mr. Muwanga** (Chairman of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee), introducing the report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee (IAAC) on the budget of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) under the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 (A/66/737), which had been prepared in accordance with the IAAC terms of reference annexed to General Assembly resolution 61/275, said that IAAC had noted progress in the implementation of its recommendations relating to the planning and budgeting processes of the various OIOS divisions. In

particular, the risk-based work planning methods of some OIOS divisions, including the identification of residual risks faced by the various United Nations departments, had improved. In the current environment, and given the Organization's complexity, IAAC considered risk assessment and management to be critical; it had therefore continued to encourage all divisions of OIOS, including the Investigation Division, to employ an appropriate risk-based methodology in developing their workplans and analysing resource requirements. It had also noted the particular attention paid by OIOS to horizontal audits.

26. In its current report (A/66/737), IAAC had recommended that OIOS conduct more capacity gap analyses of the work of the Office as a whole. Available resources should not be the driver of its workplan; rather, the workplan, derived from a robust residual risk assessment, should determine its resource requirements. The Internal Audit Division, which was already conducting such capacity gap analyses, was to be commended. IAAC had been informed that the Inspection and Evaluation Division, owing to resource constraints, had been unable to perform some critical evaluation activities that it had wished to carry out. In that context, IAAC had recommended that OIOS should provide details of such activities in its future workplans, bearing in mind that the General Assembly was responsible for determining the risk tolerance of the Organization.

27. With regard to the Investigations Division, IAAC had recalled its earlier recommendation on the disparities reported in the distribution of investigation resources and the high vacancy rates that could affect the result of the pilot project. It had also noted the section of the report of the Board of Auditors on United Nations peacekeeping operations regarding the placement and distribution of OIOS investigative capacity (A/65/5 (Vol. II), chap. II, sect. C), and the preliminary report of OIOS on the implementation of the pilot project designated by the General Assembly in resolution 63/287 (A/65/765). The comments of IAAC on the comprehensive report of OIOS on the implementation of that pilot project (A/66/755) would be reflected in its annual report and in its next report on the OIOS budget under the peacekeeping support account.

28. **Ms. Lapointe** (Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services), introducing the comprehensive report of OIOS on the implementation

72. **Mr. Mihoubi** (Algeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group attached great importance to cross-cutting policy issues concerning the administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of peacekeeping operations. In that connection, the Group reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, including those related to peacekeeping operations.

73. While each peacekeeping mission was unique, resolutions on cross-cutting issues could serve as an important policy tool, providing the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support with comprehensive guidance on issues that were common to all operations. Given that all peacekeeping missions must be provided with the resources they required to fulfil their mandates, the delays in providing resources to some missions, particularly those in Africa, were a matter of concern. Moreover, the planning assumptions and resource requests for each peacekeeping operation should be based on the relevant mandates and the situation on the ground, rather than reflecting arbitrary across-the-board cuts. It was therefore a grave error to use resource reduction targets in formulating peacekeeping budgets. The potential operational impact of such reductions on missions had not been adequately explored; the proposed cuts could adversely affect the work and well-being of United Nations peacekeepers and hamper the implementation of mandates.

74. The Group recognized the valuable contributions and sacrifices made by troop-contributing countries and emphasized the importance of consulting them closely on all matters related to peacekeeping. Furthermore, reimbursements to troop-contributing countries, which bore additional burdens because some Member States had not paid their assessments on time, must be expedited. The long-pending issue of the review of rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries continued to jeopardize the sustainability of peacekeeping operations. Recalling the interim measures that had been approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/289, the Group stood ready to continue its constructive engagement with a view to implementation of a long-term solution.

75. The Group noted with satisfaction the decline reported in the number of allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping missions and

encouraged the Secretariat to continue to work with Member States, especially troop-contributing countries, in a spirit of partnership to ensure effective implementation of the zero-tolerance policy, which it unreservedly supported. The Group also called on the Secretary-General to ensure that staff members showed respect for all cultures and did not discriminate against any individual or group or otherwise abuse their authority. It was important to prevent unsubstantiated allegations of misconduct from damaging the credibility of peacekeeping operations and troop-contributing countries.

76. Recalling that, by its resolution 64/269, the General Assembly had decided to increase the level of compensation for death for all categories of uniformed personnel, the Group stressed the need to establish a mechanism for the periodic review of death and disability compensation, taking into account inflationary factors. It trusted that the Secretary-General was fully abiding by the terms of the resolution by ensuring that all those in the service of the United Nations were eligible for such compensation; greater attention should be paid to the issue.

77. The Group, expressing concern at the information provided by the Advisory Committee concerning the implementation of resolution 65/248 regarding the common system and, in particular, the abolition of posts, stressed that the Secretary-General must ensure that the harmonization of conditions of service did not impact on operational costs or undermine the implementation of mandated programmes and activities. Lastly, adequate field support must be provided to peacekeeping operations.

78. **Mr. Chapdelaine** (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, said that the growing size and complexity of peacekeeping missions made it more urgent than ever for Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full and on time. The adoption of a cross-cutting resolution would help the Organization to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of peacekeeping operations, pursue targeted management reforms and address key thematic issues.

79. While the three delegations acknowledged the efforts by the Secretariat to achieve economies of scale in peacekeeping operations, they would scrutinize the further measures proposed by the Secretary-General

with a view to optimizing cost-effectiveness and improving overall effectiveness and efficiency. In particular, there was a need to tighten coordination of peacekeeping training activities and to implement, without delay, management systems for information technology, procurement contracts, assets and rations, so as to allow the Organization to strengthen planning and oversight of those areas and identify sustainable efficiency measures throughout peacekeeping operations. The Secretary-General, in his budget performance reports, should provide financial information distinguishing between savings accruing from cost reductions and savings from the implementation of efficiency measures.

80. With regard to personnel transportation, while welcome improvements had been reported in the utilization rates for ground transportation equipment, it was important to seek increased efficiency and effectiveness in the management of air transportation. In particular, the three delegations concurred fully with the Advisory Committee's call for the Secretary-General to identify innovative ways to address the current shortfall of military helicopters in peacekeeping operations.

81. Turning to special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, he said that, as indicated by the Advisory Committee, the Secretary-General should provide an analysis of the factors contributing to sexual exploitation and abuse and describe efforts undertaken by the Secretariat for its eradication. Although there was an overall downward trend in reported cases, any perception that the United Nations was unable or unwilling to address abuse, particularly the most egregious forms of sexual abuse, undermined its credibility and eroded support for peacekeeping missions. Stricter enforcement of the zero-tolerance policy and an intensified focus on prevention measures were needed. Continued efforts to address the gender imbalance in peacekeeping operations would also do much to improve the situation.

82. While the continuing work of the Department of Field Support to improve the Organization's logistics and delivery capabilities was welcome, further in-depth discussion was required on many points covered by the Secretary-General's report on the global field support strategy (A/66/591 and Add.1). A more systematic and methodical approach to planning was needed in the context of the strategy. In particular, the cost benefits of the Entebbe Regional Service Centre needed to be clearly demonstrated before Member States could

consider the advisability of establishing two additional centres, as proposed by the Secretary-General.

83. **Ms. Power** (Observer for the European Union) said that, while welcome steps had been taken to make peacekeeping more effective, there was still significant scope for reducing the unit cost of peacekeeping. In view of the financial constraints facing all States, strict budgetary discipline remained necessary to ensure that resources were used effectively and efficiently. A distinction should be made between efficiency gains and underexpenditure resulting from other factors. The member States of the European Union would therefore closely examine the budgets of all peacekeeping operations, and their support functions, to identify sustainable efficiency measures. They would also closely scrutinize all items relating to cross-cutting issues, including the concerns raised by the Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee in such areas as capital investment, procurement, fuel management, official travel and the use of consultants.

84. The member States of the European Union supported full implementation of the global field support strategy, as an important way of improving the effectiveness of peacekeeping, although the Organization must also demonstrate that it delivered value for money. Moreover, the strategy could only reach its full potential and yield the necessary results if other reform projects, including full implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards and the Umoja enterprise resource planning system, were carried out simultaneously.

85. With regard to the significant expansion in the role of civilian personnel in peacekeeping operations over the past 10 years, it was gratifying that the impact of recent human resources reforms adopted by the General Assembly was being reflected in steadily declining turnover rates and an increasing number of staff members in field missions that had been regularized through selection processes subject to central review. Bearing in mind that the proposed resources for civilian personnel in peacekeeping for 2012/13 amounted to almost \$1.8 billion, closer scrutiny of the civilian component of peacekeeping, including requests for new posts, was needed. The Secretariat, and in particular the leadership team of each mission, must continuously look for productivity gains in their civilian staffing structure. In that regard, it should be noted that the Board of Auditors had identified 61 international staff posts vacant for two or more years.

86. The member States of the European Union concurred with the Secretary-General that any substantiated case of sexual exploitation and abuse was one case too many. Consequently, they remained concerned at the number of allegations reported, the slow completion of investigations, and the lack of progress reported by the Secretary-General with regard to assistance and support to the victims.

87. **Mr. Pankin** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation welcomed the positive trend in the overall budget implementation rate for peacekeeping for 2010/11. It was to be hoped that a more accurate formulation of budget proposals would become the rule in future. Noting the 5.5 per cent reduction in the overall peacekeeping budgets for 2011/12 compared with the previous period, his delegation concurred with the Advisory Committee that a crucial distinction should be made between savings relating to the implementation of efficiency measures and underexpenditures: the latter could ultimately lead to increased resource requirements. It was a matter of concern that the reductions in expenditure in a number of missions were based not on efficiency gains but on changes in peacekeeping mandates. His delegation also shared the Board of Auditors' concerns regarding the lack of plans, performance indicators and monitoring measures for the global field support strategy. The Committee should discuss the actual causes of savings made and examine measures — unrelated to changes in the mandates of peacekeeping operations — for achieving the most effective utilization of resources.

88. His delegation would support measures to enhance the transparency of the Secretariat's work. In particular, it hoped that the Organization would assess all risks associated with the increased outsourcing of functions, which could negatively affect the quality of service delivery. In that connection, his delegation would focus on maintaining the architecture for the delegation of authority from Headquarters to the field, and would analyse the proposed transfer of functions away from Headquarters to ensure that the quality of the logistical services provided to missions did not deteriorate and that Member States had appropriate oversight of support functions.

89. He believed that the decline in vacancy rates at non-family duty stations was attributable to the improvement in conditions of service in the field approved by the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session. However, no conclusions should be drawn

regarding staff mobility until that issue had been comprehensively discussed at the main part of the sixty-seventh session.

90. In the area of oversight, the progress made with regard to the management of assets, as noted by the Organization's external auditors, should be welcomed. However, his delegation was concerned by situations where the view of an internal oversight body differed from that of the external audit body. Specifically, while the Board of Auditors had raised serious concerns about the administrative activities of the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia, OIOS had made no such comments. Those who had committed the violations highlighted by the Board of Auditors, as well as those who had turned a blind eye to them, must be held accountable for their actions.

91. With regard to the greening of United Nations peacekeeping operations, while such environmental initiatives were unquestionably important, his delegation called on Member States to ensure that they did not become a goal in and of themselves and did not increase the financial burden on Member States or lead to violations of administrative rules.

92. The disparate initiatives proposed by the Secretary-General with regard to modifying the provision of air transportation services should be discussed in the context of the detailed analysis of the governance of United Nations air operations requested by the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session. As the Secretary-General had failed to provide such analysis to date, those discussions should be deferred until the sixty-seventh session.

93. **Mr. Khan** (Pakistan) said that, while the comprehensive information provided in the overview report of the Secretary-General on peacekeeping operations (A/66/679) was critical for the General Assembly to make well-informed decisions, the Secretary-General should be allowed to consolidate progress in the implementation of ongoing initiatives in the field and multi-year projects. His delegation had therefore consistently advocated biennializing the overview report.

94. Troop costs were a matter of great concern to Pakistan and other troop-contributing countries. The small supplemental payment approved by the General Assembly the previous year was merely a stopgap measure and it was imperative that the necessary

compensation should be provided to United Nations peacekeepers until long-term comprehensive measures were taken. Nationals of troop-contributing countries should be appointed to top managerial positions, both in the field and at Headquarters, particularly in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support, in order to create a stronger link between those who directed peacekeeping operations and those who provided the vital human resources on the ground. It was regrettable that no significant progress had yet been made on those issues. His delegation noted with interest the Secretary-General's efforts to address the underrepresentation of troop- and police-contributing countries, including through strategic outreach activities; such activities should be supported by specific targets, benchmarks and time frames in order to produce demonstrable results.

95. Comprehensive, clear and detailed information was essential for measuring progress in implementation of the global field support strategy, which his delegation fully supported; piecemeal reporting hindered the consideration of important issues and hampered the Committee's decision-making. It was therefore to be hoped that the Secretary-General would improve his reporting process in that regard. Pakistan noted with concern the findings of the Board of Auditors concerning the strategy and the risks to its successful delivery. His delegation looked forward to hearing how the Secretariat planned to implement the Board's recommendations. A comprehensive matrix on the progress made in implementing the strategy should be developed; a thorough analysis and review of the strategy should also be conducted to ensure the effectiveness of the process and the achievement of its qualitative and quantitative goals.

96. **Mr. Weisleder** (Costa Rica) said that his delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's efforts to improve the mechanisms for preventing sexual exploitation and abuse in the United Nations system and to investigate and follow up allegations. The decrease reported in the number of allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse in 2011 was apparently attributable to the measures taken; he hoped that the situation would continue to improve.

97. Costa Rica supported the policy of zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse and welcomed the decision to supplement the present framework of sanctions. Enforcement measures were needed to

ensure accountability and establish penalties for perpetrators. The United Nations, in all its operations, including peacekeeping and special political missions, had an obligation to respect individual human rights and to investigate and punish anyone engaged in sexual exploitation and abuse, regardless of the ultimate consequences. It was also important for the Organization and individual Member States to provide assistance to the victims of sexual exploitation and abuse.

98. **Mr. Sul Kyung-hoon** (Republic of Korea), noting the efficiency gains reflected in the proposed peacekeeping budgets for 2012/13, said that his delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's strong commitment to delivering better results in the current difficult financial conditions. There was, however, room for further improvement. A distinction should be made between savings, which reflected cost reductions attributable to efficiency measures, and underexpenditures, which could result from delays in programme implementation or overbudgeting. The budget report in its current format did not clearly distinguish between the two. Efficiency gains should be presented in more detail in future reports.

99. While the overall budget implementation rate had increased slightly to 95.5 per cent for 2010/11 compared with 2009/10, the increase could have been attributable to overbudgeting, which usually represented an opportunity cost. The basic assumptions on which budgets were formulated should therefore be reviewed, in particular to assess whether delayed deployment factors and vacancy rates were properly applied, bearing in mind historical data and foreseeable factors.

100. While his delegation welcomed the progress in providing more efficient and prompt backstopping of field missions through the global field support strategy, it was concerned that a comprehensive implementation plan for the strategy had not yet been established. Such a plan, including a clear vision of the envisaged end-state of the strategy under each pillar, should be developed as soon as possible.

101. The proposal to deploy the Global Service Centre in two locations needed careful consideration in view of the financial and organizational implications. The Secretary-General should provide a clear rationale for the need for two locations, as well as information on potential alternative solutions and a cost-benefit analysis.

102. Among the cross-cutting issues to be discussed at the second part of the resumed session, his delegation was particularly interested in ways to protect the United Nations system against currency fluctuations, assessment of the efficiency and effectiveness of turnkey contracts, the adequacy of budgeting for quick-impact projects, and cost-efficient training. It fully shared the concerns expressed regarding the importance of reaching consensus on all items; the adoption of a resolution by any other means would be detrimental to the activities of peacekeeping operations.

103. **Mr. Rahman** (Bangladesh), recalling that his Government contributed over 10,000 personnel to peacekeeping operations, said that the trend towards arbitrary budget cuts, which threatened the implementation of peacekeeping mandates, was regrettable. Bearing in mind the challenges faced by United Nations peacekeepers, it was vital to ensure optimal safety and security arrangements. He paid tribute to those peacekeepers who had sacrificed their lives in performing their duties.

104. Decisions on drafting, implementing or changing peacekeeping mandates should be made in consultation with troop-contributing countries, as should proposals to change the terms and conditions of memorandums of understanding. While the General Assembly, in various resolutions, had requested the Secretariat to ensure that troop-contributing countries were properly represented in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support, little progress had yet been made. His delegation urged the Secretariat to fully implement the relevant resolutions.

105. **Ms. Takahashi** (Norway) said that, while the current financial climate must not be allowed to strain the peacekeeping partnership, it was important to look for efficiencies, in which connection implementation of the New Horizon initiative should be accelerated.

106. It was encouraging that the Secretariat intended to review the budget development process. The Committee needed a budgeting process and reporting formats that more actively facilitated its results-based review and enabled it to make better informed, more strategic, decisions.

107. Her delegation welcomed the reduction in vacancy rates for civilian personnel in field missions, as well as the ongoing efforts to recruit and retain civilian personnel. The civilian personnel roster was a

valuable tool that should be fully utilized. The recent establishment by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support of an action group to improve the gender balance of United Nations peacekeeping staff was also positive. With regard to training, her delegation agreed that better coordination and prioritization of all peacekeeping training activities, as well as better statistical information, were needed.

108. She welcomed the assessment of current practice and formulation of a proactive strategy to address sexual exploitation and abuse by mission personnel, and supported the Advisory Committee's call for the Secretary-General to ensure full implementation of the zero-tolerance policy. The framework of sanctions should be strengthened, and reporting on punitive actions taken by troop- and police-contributing countries should be mandatory.

109. Implementation of the global field support strategy was highly relevant to strengthening the safety and security of mission personnel, a key concern for her delegation. Norway supported the objectives of the strategy, while also agreeing that better evaluation and results-based reporting were needed.

110. Recalling that the majority of negotiations the previous year had come to a halt over the issue of troop cost reimbursement, she urged all delegations to strive to reach consensus on the difficult issues before the Committee at the current session and to work in a spirit of compromise that realistically took account of the concerns of all parties involved.

111. **Ms. Lapointe** (Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services) said that OIOS had recently issued an audit report on procurement activities in UNSOA; however, as that report had been completed after the end of the period covered by the OIOS annual report (A/66/286 (Part II)), its findings had not been outlined therein. The audit report on procurement activities in UNSOA was available to Member States upon request.

112. **Mr. Banbury** (Assistant Secretary-General for Field Support) said that his Department's highest priority was to prevent cases of sexual exploitation and abuse and to respond appropriately when such cases occurred in order to enforce the zero-tolerance policy, successful implementation of which depended on a partnership between Member States and the Secretariat. In cases where allegations of sexual exploitation and

abuse proved unsubstantiated, it was vital to protect the reputation and dignity of the troop-contributing country affected.

113. With regard to the comments made by various delegations regarding arbitrary and across-the-board cuts, he stressed that the proposed reductions in peacekeeping budgets were not arbitrary but were the result of in-depth analysis and discussion involving the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Field Support, the Office of the Controller and the missions themselves. In those discussions, mandate delivery had been prioritized at all times and the uniqueness of each mission had been taken into account.

114. Concerning the distinction to be made between underexpenditure and efficiency gains, while some unplanned underexpenditure could certainly be attributed to inefficiencies, underexpenditure was also sometimes the result of a deliberate decision not to procure an item that, although initially considered necessary, turned out not to be required. Most savings, however, were the result of planned, structural improvements in budgeting and service delivery. As progress was made in the implementation of the global field support strategy, more efficiency gains would be realized.

115. He fully supported Member States' comments on the need for improved reporting in a number of areas. The current information systems made it difficult to produce the information that managers needed to take informed strategic decisions. Consequently, the implementation of Umoja was a very high priority for the Department. In the meantime, every effort would be made to provide more appropriate, better quality information in response to the requests and instructions received from Member States.

116. Concerning death and disability compensation, while the relevant General Assembly resolutions encouraged a generous interpretation of the rules governing claims for such compensation, the precise wording of those rules lacked clarity. It was sometimes difficult for medical professionals to determine whether a death or disability was service-related and, if a doctor ruled that the death or disability of a staff member could not be attributed to service in a peacekeeping operation, the Secretariat was required to reject the claim for compensation, even if it might seem reasonable to award payment. Clearer guidelines

enabling the Secretariat to respond promptly and fairly in cases where United Nations peacekeepers had lost their lives or become disabled while deployed would therefore be welcome.

117. Lastly, he concurred with Member States regarding the importance of a review of the budget development process, which the Department of Field Support would fully support.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.



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Summary record of the 33rd meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 10 May 2012, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Tommo Monthe (Cameroon)
*Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative
 and Budgetary Questions:* Mr. Kelapile

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12-33571 (E)



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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 147: Financing of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (*continued*) (A/66/718/Add.12 and A/66/722)

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Agenda item 165: Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 1863 (2009) (A/66/590, A/66/685 and A/66/718/Add.19)

1. **Ms. Casar** (Controller), introducing the proposed budget for the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 (A/66/722), said that the proposed funding of \$256.8 million reflected a 46.3 per cent increase relative to the funding of \$175.5 million appropriated for 2011/12. The main causes of the variance were increased requirements for military contingents, primarily owing to the application of a

lower delayed deployment factor to the full authorized strength; the provision for self-sustainment of contingent-owned equipment, which was made for the full year; an expansion in the aviation fleet from 6 to 12 aircraft; and additional requirements for mine detection and mine-clearing services in the conduct of border verification and monitoring activities. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly were set out in paragraph 82 of the budget report.

2. Introducing the budget performance report of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (A/66/616), she said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of \$485.1 million for the maintenance of the Operation. Subsequently, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in response to her request, had authorized the Secretary-General on 28 April 2011 to enter into commitments for UNOCI in the amount of \$85.2 million to meet the Operation's critical additional requirements arising from Security Council resolutions, bringing the total resources approved for UNOCI for the 2010/11 period to \$570.3 million. Expenditures for the same period had amounted to \$551.5 million, leaving an unencumbered balance of \$18.8 million, representing a resource utilization rate of 96.7 per cent. The reduced expenditures were primarily attributable to the delay in the deployment of additional military and formed police personnel.

3. The proposed budget of \$586.2 million for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 (A/66/753) reflected a 9.3 per cent decrease relative to the \$646.0 million appropriated for 2011/12. The main causes of the variance were a reduction in requirements for military, police and civilian personnel and in operational costs, primarily owing to the completion of the electoral process and the related abolition of 213 positions; the completion of construction of new camps during the 2011/12 period; the limited acquisition of equipment; and the downsizing of the aviation fleet by two helicopters. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 74 of the budget performance report (A/66/616) and paragraph 94 of the budget report (A/66/753).

4. Introducing the budget performance report of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (A/66/568), she said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of \$56.3 million for the

2010/11 period for the maintenance of the Force and that expenditures had amounted to \$55.7 million, leaving an unencumbered balance of \$0.6 million, which represented a resource utilization rate of 99.0 per cent. The main causes of the variance were lower expenditures for military contingents, primarily owing to lower actual costs for the rotation of contingent personnel; a lower-than-budgeted cost of rations; and reduced requirements for mission subsistence allowance payable to staff officers resulting from a lower-than-budgeted euro/United States dollar exchange rate.

5. The proposed budget of \$54.2 million for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 (A/66/686) reflected a 4.1 per cent decrease relative to the funding of \$56.5 million appropriated by the General Assembly for 2011/12. The main causes of the variance were reduced requirements for military and police personnel; a decrease in staff assessments and a revised estimate for common staff costs for international staff; and a lower budgeted euro/United States dollar exchange rate applied to national staff costs. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 32 of the budget performance report (A/66/568) and paragraph 45 of the budget report (A/66/686).

6. Introducing the budget performance report of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (A/66/652), she said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of \$1,365.0 million for the 2010/11 period for the maintenance of the Mission and that expenditures had amounted to \$1,356.1 million, leaving an unencumbered balance of \$8.9 million, which represented a utilization rate of 99.3 per cent. The main causes of the variance were lower expenditures for military and police personnel owing to lower-than-budgeted rates for rations, lower rotation costs, reduced requirements for reimbursements for contingent-owned equipment and a lower-than-budgeted deployment of formed police personnel; and a reduction in expenditures for the acquisition of vehicles owing to the transfer of vehicles from liquidating missions.

7. The proposed budget of \$1,338.9 million for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 (A/66/723) reflected a 9.9 per cent decrease relative to the funding of \$1,486.5 million appropriated by the General

Assembly for 2011/12. The main causes of the variance were reduced requirements for military and police personnel; reduced requirements for operational costs attributable to the exclusion of the provision for the deployment of aircraft to support the November 2011 elections and the reconfiguration of the Mission's aircraft fleet; and reduced requirements for facilities and infrastructure and ground transportation owing to the extended utilization of existing equipment. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 57 of the budget performance report (A/66/652) and paragraph 108 of the budget report (A/66/723).

8. Introducing the budget performance report of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (A/66/658), she said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of \$853.8 million for the 2010/11 period for the maintenance of the Mission and that expenditures had amounted to \$810.6 million, leaving an unencumbered balance of \$43.3 million, representing a resource utilization rate of 94.9 per cent. The main causes of the variance were a lower actual average deployment of formed police personnel; higher actual vacancy rates for temporary staff; and lower expenditures for facilities and infrastructure owing to the cancellation of the planned construction of camps for military and police personnel and unspent balances for rental of premises.

9. The proposed budget of \$644.4 million for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 (A/66/745) reflected an 18.8 per cent decrease relative to the funding of \$793.5 million appropriated by the General Assembly for 2011/12. The main causes of the variance were reduced requirements for military and police personnel owing to a reduction in military contingent personnel by 1,600 and in formed police personnel by 1,150, pursuant to Security Council resolution 2012 (2011); reduced requirements for civilian personnel, including the abolishment of 352 temporary positions, and the discontinuation of the entitlement to hazardous duty station allowance; reduced requirements for operational costs, including lower provisions for facilities and infrastructure and communications owing to the partial drawdown of the Mission's post-earthquake surge capacities; and the reduction in the fleet of aircraft by one fixed-wing and one rotary-wing aircraft. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 50 of the budget

performance report (A/66/658) and paragraph 227 of the budget report (A/66/745).

10. Introducing the budget performance report of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (A/66/577), she said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of \$47.9 million for the maintenance of the Mission and that expenditures had amounted to \$47.9 million, leaving an unencumbered balance of \$7,400, representing a resource utilization rate of 100 per cent.

11. The proposed budget of \$47.0 million for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 (A/66/673) reflected a 4.6 per cent increase relative to the funding of \$44.9 million appropriated by the General Assembly for 2011/12. The main causes of the variance were increased requirements for civilian personnel owing to revised salary scales for international and national staff; higher average grade levels of national staff; and the inclusion, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/248, of provisions for travel costs of the rest and recuperation framework for international staff. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 41 of the budget performance report (A/66/577) and paragraph 59 of the budget report (A/66/673).

12. Introducing the budget performance report of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (A/66/602), she said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of \$524.0 million for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 for the maintenance of the Mission and that expenditures had amounted to \$512.2 million, leaving an unencumbered balance of \$11.8 million, representing a resource utilization rate of 97.7 per cent. The main causes of the variance were a lower-than-budgeted cost of rotation of military contingents; lower-than-budgeted requirements for contingent-owned major equipment and self-sustainment; and lower expenditures for civilian personnel owing mainly to the discontinuation of the payment of hazardous duty station allowance.

13. The proposed budget of \$502.2 million for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 (A/66/691) reflected a 4.4 per cent decrease relative to the funding of \$525.5 million appropriated by the General Assembly for 2011/12. The main causes of the variance were reduced requirements for military and police

personnel and the exclusion of provisions for electoral support provided by the Mission in the 2011/12 period, particularly in the areas of facilities, infrastructure and air transportation, including lower guaranteed aircraft and flight hours costs and the limited acquisition of new equipment. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 66 of the budget performance report (A/66/602) and paragraph 96 of the budget report (A/66/691).

14. Introducing the proposed budget of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 (A/66/733), she said that the proposed funding amounted to \$839.8 million, reflecting a 16.3 per cent increase relative to the funding of \$722.1 million the General Assembly had appropriated for 2011/12, which had been based on the standardized funding model. The main causes of the variance were the higher levels of planned deployment of civilian personnel; requirements for fuel, mine action services and construction services; and support for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration activities. The increased requirements were partly offset by reduced requirements for acquisitions of equipment, owing to acquisitions made in 2011/12 and the transfer of equipment from closing missions, as well as reduced provisions for the transportation of contingent-owned equipment. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 103 of the report.

15. Introducing the budget performance report of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (A/66/596), she said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of \$1,808.1 million for the 2010/11 period for the maintenance of the Operation and that expenditures had amounted to \$1,583.4 million, leaving an unencumbered balance of \$224.7 million, which represented an 87.6 per cent resource utilization rate. The main causes of the variance were reduced requirements for military and police personnel costs owing to the decrease in the ceiling man rate for fresh rations and lower-than-budgeted requirements for contingent-owned major equipment; lower-than-planned expenditures for international staff; and a lower-than-planned level of aviation activities.

16. The proposed budget of \$1,521.0 million for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 (A/66/695) reflected a 10.0 per cent decrease relative to the

funding of \$1,689.3 million appropriated for 2011/12. The main causes of the variance were reduced requirements for military and police personnel; reduced requirements for air transportation owing to reconfiguration of the Operation's fleet of aircraft and lower contractual costs; and reduced construction and equipment acquisition costs, as the capital expenditures needed to bring UNAMID to its full operational capacity had been completed. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 102 of the budget performance report (A/66/596) and paragraph 108 of the budget report (A/66/695).

17. Introducing the budget performance report on the financing of support for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (A/66/590), she said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of \$174.3 million for the 2010/11 period for the maintenance of the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia (UNSOA). Subsequently, in a letter dated 28 April 2011, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had concurred with the Secretary-General's request for authorization to enter into commitments in an amount not to exceed \$35.9 million for the 2010/11 period to meet the Mission's additional requirements arising from Security Council decisions, bringing the total resources approved for 2010/11 to \$210.2 million. Expenditures for the same period had amounted to \$210.1 million, leaving an unencumbered balance of \$0.1 million, which represented a resource utilization rate of 99.9 per cent.

18. The proposed budget of \$438.3 million for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 (A/66/685) reflected a 50.6 per cent increase relative to the \$291.1 million appropriated by the General Assembly for 2011/12. The main causes of the variance were reimbursements to troop-contributing countries for contingent-owned equipment; expansion of the authorized force strength by 45 per cent, with uniformed personnel operating in four sectors across south-central Somalia; and the addition of 80 civilian personnel posts. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 53 of the budget performance report (A/66/590) and paragraph 137 of the budget report (A/66/685).

19. **Mr. Kelapile** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that he wished to stress the Advisory

Committee's recommendation, contained in its report on observations and recommendations on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations (A/66/718), that a review of vehicle and information technology equipment holdings should be conducted for all missions with a view to aligning holdings with the standard ratios established by the Department of Field Support.

20. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the proposed budget for UNISFA for 2012/13 (A/66/718/Add.12), he said that the Advisory Committee recommended a reduction of \$1 million in the Force's budget under information technology resources, noting that the proposed resources covered the requirement for a fully staffed mission and did not take into account delayed deployment or vacancy factors.

21. The Advisory Committee recommended the approval of the 71 new posts proposed, noting that the proposed budget reflected the expanded mandate of the Mission under Security Council resolution 2024 (2011), including additional tasks in support of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism and an expanded area of operations. The Advisory Committee had noted the high vacancy levels in 2011/12 for all categories of staff and urged the Secretary-General to fill the vacant posts as soon as possible. It also noted with concern that, as at 5 March 2012, the cash position of the Mission had represented a \$26.7 million shortfall compared to the required three-month operating cash reserve of \$34.5 million.

22. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the budget performance for 2010/11 and proposed budget for 2012/13 of UNOCI (A/66/718/Add.18), he said that the Advisory Committee considered that the proposed vacancy factor of 10 per cent for international posts was not realistic and recommended that it should be adjusted to 15 per cent. The Advisory Committee did not object to the functions of the proposed new post of Special Adviser to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General at the P-5 level, but considered that the requirement could be met through the redeployment or reassignment of an approved post, and therefore requested that the Operation should review its staffing to identify an existing post for that purpose and report thereon in the context of the 2013/14 budget submission. The Advisory Committee had no objection to the Secretary-General's proposal to abolish a total of 213 temporary

37. The Advisory Committee recommended the approval of the proposed 16 international posts, 32 national posts and 54 United Nations Volunteer positions, with the exception of four posts in the Mission Support Division. Noting that only six posts were proposed for abolition owing to the transfer of functions and related staff from the UNMISS Mission Support Division to the Regional Service Centre at Entebbe, the Advisory Committee considered that greater efficiencies could be derived from the streamlining and integration of functions in the Mission. The Advisory Committee expected the Mission to review its requirements across its entire staffing complement with a view to identifying further efficiencies in administrative support attributable to the use of the Regional Service Centre and to report thereon in the context of the 2013/14 budget submission.

38. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the budget performance for 2010/11 and proposed budget for 2012/13 of UNAMID (A/66/718/Add.16), he said that the Advisory Committee recommended a reduction of \$2.3 million under consultants, training and ground transportation in the budget for 2012/13, which amounted to some \$1.5 billion. The Advisory Committee took note of the recently completed review of uniformed personnel and expected that the General Assembly would be informed of the financial and administrative implications of any Security Council decision with respect to the review. The Advisory Committee also took note of the specific circumstances faced by the Operation, which had resulted in high vacancy rates, and the slow progress in the implementation of construction and engineering projects.

39. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the budget performance for 2012/11 of support for AMISOM and proposed budget for 2012/13 of UNSOA (A/66/718/Add.19), he said that the Advisory Committee's recommendations would entail a reduction of \$321,700 in the proposed UNSOA budget for 2012/13, which amounted to some \$438 million. The proposed budget included a logistical support package for an expanded AMISOM presence of 17,731 troops and formed police units in four sectors in Somalia. The support package also provided for the reimbursement of contingent-owned equipment including force enablers and multipliers, as mandated by the Security Council. With the exception of four

Field Service posts, the Advisory Committee recommended approval of the Secretary-General's proposals. It considered the resources proposed for travel in connection with training to be high, and recommended that the amount should be reduced by \$100,000. It also recommended approval of only 40 of the proposed 43 training consultants, as the prevailing security situation in Somalia could impact the ability of the consultants to conduct all planned activities.

40. **Ms. Lapointe** (Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services), introducing the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the programme evaluation of MINUSTAH (A/66/740), said that the Mission had responded to the acute needs in Haiti in the aftermath of the earthquake, while also suffering tragic losses itself. Notwithstanding the magnitude of the disaster, which had overwhelmed the Government and the international community, MINUSTAH had proved resilient and had mobilized immediately to provide critical support.

41. In 2011, MINUSTAH had realigned its activities to support the reconstruction of the country, turning its focus to maintaining political stability, facilitating the continued delivery of humanitarian assistance and supporting the National Police. By mid-2011, its core mandate had shifted to institution-building and capacity development, particularly in the area of the rule of law. However, the capacity of key national institutions remained weak, and the National Police continued to rely on United Nations police units for extensive support. It was important to note that MINUSTAH, the Government of Haiti and the international community shared responsibility for strengthening and reforming key institutions. OIOS had issued its recommendations to provide constructive feedback in the context of the Mission's new role.

42. Five recommendations, dealing primarily with human rights and the security sector, had been issued to MINUSTAH, in particular: early adoption of the proposed Haitian National Police development plan 2012-2016; strengthening of a common United Nations approach to supporting rule-of-law initiatives; and issuance of more comprehensive human rights monitoring reports on a regular basis. With regard to the latter, in December 2011 the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) had issued two reports on alleged killings by the Haitian National Police, with four other reports due.

43. Introducing the OIOS report on the programme evaluation of performance and achievement of results of United Nations peacekeeping activities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (A/66/741), she noted that, as one of the largest peacekeeping operations in the history of the United Nations, MONUSCO and its predecessor, MONUC, had helped to improve security conditions in much of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and had supported the conduct of two national elections, the delivery of humanitarian assistance and the work of civil society. It had also introduced innovative tools and approaches, including mechanisms to facilitate interaction between the Mission and communities and implement human rights due diligence policies, which had become models for other peacekeeping missions.

44. However, slow progress in reforming the security sector and establishing the rule of law were impeding the achievement of benchmarks for the Mission's exit. Improvements in those areas were a prerequisite for sustained progress and would require actions by many partners, including Government entities and the international community. OIOS had issued eight recommendations to MONUSCO, four of which were critical.

45. Regarding sexual exploitation and abuse, all OIOS recommendations, whether resulting from investigations or evaluations, urged United Nations organizations and entities to take all possible steps to implement and reinforce the policy of zero tolerance. Such steps must include the consistent application of accountability and sanctioning mechanisms, not only to perpetrators of sexual exploitation and abuse, but also to managers who failed to implement appropriate preventive or reporting systems or failed to respond to known or suspected misconduct or allegations; to those responsible for failures in security and other control systems, in cases involving military and uniformed personnel; and to police- and troop-contributing countries that failed to implement the provisions of commitments to investigate allegations and report back to the United Nations.

46. In its response to OIOS, the Administration had stated that MONUSCO, the United Nations peacekeeping operation with the largest number of staff, had achieved a 40 per cent decrease in the number of allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse in 2010/11. However, under the zero-tolerance policy, a 100 per cent decrease in the number of substantiated

reports of sexual exploitation and abuse was the only acceptable result.

47. As noted in the OIOS report, despite the unprecedented investment in peacekeeping in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, slow progress in the area of security sector reform and establishing the rule of law meant that Security Council benchmarks for the Mission's exit appear unlikely to be met in the near future.

48. **Mr. Errázuriz** (Chile), speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), expressed CELAC's solidarity with the Government and people of Haiti. While the international community played a crucial role in reconstructing the country, the process would only be successful if it was viewed as a sustainable, long-term effort under the leadership of the Government of Haiti and conducted with full respect for its sovereignty. CELAC therefore reiterated its full support for MINUSTAH. The Mission should be given the resources it required to fulfil its mandate, including strengthening national capacity, and should remain in the country for as long as it was needed and welcomed by the Haitian Government and people.

49. CELAC opposed any arbitrary reductions in the resources allocated to the Mission: its budget, like those of other peacekeeping missions, should be based on the situation on the ground and on the mandate approved by the Security Council, which had recently been renewed. In that regard, the high vacancy rate at MINUSTAH was a matter of concern.

50. The member countries of CELAC had demonstrated their commitment to helping the Haitian people on the path to stability, peace and development by contributing most of the military and police personnel to MINUSTAH and providing technical cooperation, humanitarian assistance and medical teams through bilateral channels, regional organizations and the United Nations system.

51. CELAC was firmly convinced that, in order to achieve stable and lasting peace in Haiti, United Nations activities should transcend security aspects and also focus on institution-building and the social and economic development of the country. Those goals had been clearly established in the renewed MINUSTAH mandate. In that regard, he encouraged the Mission to make the best use of the available capacities and resources, including its engineers, to continue

supporting the country's reconstruction and development efforts.

52. The member countries of CELAC remained willing to continue working with the Government to establish long-term development strategies within a cohesive framework, and, if necessary, to continue contributing to peacekeeping activities. CELAC welcomed the implementation of quick-impact projects and recognized their important contribution to mandate implementation, in particular through improving the relationship between MINUSTAH and the local population. Such projects should continue to be implemented in consonance with the priorities of the Haitian Government. CELAC also supported the community violence reduction programme and opposed the proposed reduction in its budget, as it formed an important part of the Mission's mandate and played an important role in mitigating conflicts in neighbourhoods and in camps for internally displaced persons.

53. The member countries of CELAC had responded promptly to the Haitian Government's request for cooperation, providing aid even before the establishment of MINUSTAH. They remained committed to ensuring appropriate resources for the implementation of the Mission's mandate and urged other Member States to continue working for the reconstruction of Haiti.

54. **Mr. Coffi** (Côte d'Ivoire), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that peacekeeping missions, which performed their important work in challenging environments, must be given adequate resources to implement their mandates in full. The Group was therefore concerned that, with the application of resource reduction targets, the Secretary-General's budget proposals for most missions for 2012/13 were substantially lower than their budgets for the preceding financial period. In addition, the Advisory Committee had recommended further reductions in the resource levels for some missions. The Group would scrutinize each proposal and the Advisory Committee's recommendations and reject any arbitrary reductions, measures or initiatives that might undermine the implementation of mandates and jeopardize the safety, security and well-being of peacekeepers. The Committee should allocate resources based on the specific mandates and unique circumstances of each mission and after considering the merits of each proposal.

55. **Mr. Sheek** (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, said that, as a result of the recovery and reconstruction efforts of MINUSTAH after the devastating earthquake in Haiti in 2010, the number of displaced persons in camps had fallen by two thirds and training and infrastructure projects had achieved tangible results. Despite the improvement in security and humanitarian conditions, however, long-term development remained fragile owing to a combination of post-recovery and stabilization challenges.

56. The three delegations welcomed the appointment of the new Prime Minister, Laurent Lamothe. They also supported the Mission's efforts to foster national political consensus on continuity of governance, the proper functioning of government institutions, sound management of public funds and stronger rule of law. Those efforts should be met by equal commitment and action by political leaders and stakeholders in Haiti in the interest of reform aimed at upholding the public interest, the rule of law and human rights and strengthening the economy through job creation, trade and investment.

57. With the reduction in earthquake-response operations in 2012, MINUSTAH would be able to refocus its efforts on stability and institutional capacity-building, particularly in the areas of security, democratic governance and the rule of law. He noted with concern the threat to domestic stability posed by armed groups and increased crime and trafficking. The response to those problems should include action to address institutional deficiencies in law enforcement and the judicial system. Developing the Haitian National Police as the country's primary security institution should continue to be a priority. The MINUSTAH police component did vital work in strengthening police capacity, expanding territorial coverage and protecting vulnerable groups, notably displaced persons.

58. He welcomed the fact that the decision to partially reduce the authorized force strength had been made with caution and with recognition of the complexity of the challenges in Haiti and the threat they posed to security in the region. It was important for the Mission to contribute to the country's political stability and security. The future of the Santo Domingo Support Office and the related recommendations of the Advisory Committee merited particular attention.

59. **Ms. Niang** (Senegal) paid tribute to all peacekeepers who had lost their lives during the previous year in the performance of their duties. She also thanked the civilian personnel, who worked selflessly in often difficult conditions. Senegal was committed to providing the Organization's peacekeeping missions with well trained and experienced military and police contingents.

60. Noting that the overall proposed peacekeeping budget of \$7.4 billion for 2012/13 was 5.5 per cent lower than in the current financial period, she called upon Member States to allocate sufficient resources to allow missions to discharge their mandates, the most important aspects of which were protecting civilian populations, promoting the rule of law and supporting the peacemaking process. Given the deterioration in security conditions in most mission areas, the first priority should be to allocate adequate resources for security activities. Her delegation remained opposed to negotiating peacekeeping budgets in the aggregate. It also had reservations about the application of across-the-board budget cuts to peacekeeping operations.

61. The current global economic situation required that the financial resources available for peacekeeping operations should be managed rationally, effectively and efficiently with a high degree of transparency. To that end, the Secretary-General should ensure that the relevant recommendations of internal and external oversight bodies were implemented.

62. The seminars organized by the Procurement Division for developing countries, particularly in Africa, should be expanded to increase the number of businesses from the South registered in the United Nations supplier database. To support economic and social development in areas hosting peacekeeping missions, the Secretary-General should instruct the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support to give local and subregional suppliers a larger share of the market.

63. On death and disability claims, the Secretary-General should comply with section II, paragraphs 4 and 5, of General Assembly resolution 64/269. The processing of claims, particularly for disability, was excessively lengthy, sometimes because the Medical Service requested additional information that was irrelevant and only delayed settlement.

64. Lastly, the Secretary-General should accelerate the payment of amounts owing to troop-contributing

countries. Only then would they have the necessary funds to strengthen the operational readiness of their contingents.

65. **Mr. del Rosario Ceballos** (Dominican Republic) said that his Government was committed to the reconstruction process in Haiti. In January, President Leonel Fernández, together with President Michel Martelly of Haiti, had inaugurated the Université Roi Henri Christophe in Limonade, a contribution by the Dominican Republic that would help develop Haiti's human resources.

66. Haitians themselves bore the main responsibility for advancing their country towards prosperity and democracy. However, the international community should make a commitment to assist them in overcoming challenges in meeting their urgent needs. Since the earthquake in 2010, his Government had allowed MINUSTAH to conduct activities from the Santo Domingo Liaison and Support Centre, where 100 staff members had performed operational and logistical disaster recovery tasks that did not require their physical presence in Haiti. Noting that the Centre's name had recently been changed to Santo Domingo Support Office, he emphasized that any change in the scope of its functions should have the prior consent of the host country in addition to the approval of the General Assembly.

67. The Assembly should give MINUSTAH the necessary resources to continue performing its crucial role in preserving the political, economic and social system in Haiti and thereby ease the difficulties afflicting the Haitian people.

68. **Ms. Plakalović** (Serbia) said that the continued presence of UNMIK in the province of Kosovo and Metohija was crucial in ensuring security, stability and respect for human rights and enabling all parties to work together to improve the lives of the population. The sensitivity of the situation justified the Mission's active engagement; its role and capacity should by no means be reduced. The close cooperation between UNMIK, the Kosovo Force (KFOR) and the European Union Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) enhanced security and stability.

69. It was particularly important that UNMIK should continue to represent Kosovo in international forums pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), except in cases where other arrangements were agreed upon in dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina.

70. The Mission should be more proactive in protecting minorities. Given the continued violations of the human rights of the non-Albanian population in Kosovo, every post in the Mission dealing with the status and needs of that population should be maintained. The Secretary-General's proposal to reassign the post of Senior Political Affairs Officer from the Office for Community Support and Facilitation to the Office of the Special Representative was therefore unacceptable. Redeployment of the post of Senior Political Affairs Officer, who served as deputy to the Head of Office and dealt with returns-related issues, could not be justified.

71. The proposal to reassign one Field Service post of Information Technology Assistant from the Mitrovica Office to the Office of the Chief of Technical Support Services in Pristina was unjustified and did not reflect real needs; the post was important for the functioning of the Mitrovica Office and should not be reassigned. Similarly, the proposal to replace the international post of Report Officer in the Office for Community Support and Facilitation with a national post would not be positive. The post concerned monitoring and reporting on the situation of non-majority communities in the Gnjilane region, and, even if filled by a member of the Serbian community, could not guarantee greater trust and better communication, especially in municipalities in which Albanians were a majority. The post should therefore remain international. The process of attrition of posts in UNMIK should be halted, particularly for those that dealt with the protection of Serbian cultural heritage and its Christian Orthodox monuments. Furthermore, vacant posts should be filled urgently.

72. **Mr. Bamba** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that, following United Nations-certified elections in December 2011, at its inaugural session in March 2012 the newly elected National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire had elected Guillaume Soro as President of the Assembly and established all bodies required for its proper functioning, thus marking an end to the process of putting in place the legislative, executive and judicial branches. President Alassane Ouattara had appointed a new Government headed by Jeannot Ahoussou-Kouadio. In February 2012, President Ouattara had been elected by his peers in the subregion as President of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States.

73. Since the approval of the previous UNOCI budget, the priorities of the Ivorian authorities had been to strengthen security by re-establishing the security forces and the rule of law, deploying security forces throughout the country, and transferring law enforcement functions to the relevant bodies. The security situation had improved markedly, although significant challenges remained, including as a result of land disputes, conflicts between communities and a precarious security situation in the west near the Liberian border. Government officials had returned to their posts in the north, so that State authority now extended throughout the country. Infrastructure was being restored and new roads, bridges and railways were being built. Reforms were under way in the coffee and cocoa industries and in the mining and energy sectors to promote the transparent management of the revenue they generated. The process of national reconciliation and dialogue with the opposition had begun.

74. Despite the great strides achieved in just one year, more must be done in the areas of national reconciliation and social cohesion; security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; rebuilding national capacities and re-establishing State authority; implementing a policy of decentralization; and the mobilization of humanitarian aid to support refugee return and the reintegration of displaced persons and refugees.

75. Given the major role played by UNOCI in restoring peace, security and stability to the country, his delegation was concerned by the proposed reduction in resources of \$59,803,200, or 9.3 per cent, compared with the period 2011/12, and by the further reduction of \$7,343,000 recommended by the Advisory Committee, which together would represent a deep budget cut despite the remaining challenges and the need for electoral assistance in the organization of municipal and regional elections in 2012. The reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee in the sensitive areas of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform were a matter of particular concern. Indeed, the President had himself taken on the duties of Minister of Defence in order to accelerate those processes and had established a working group to report on defence and security structures and policies and ways of addressing problems relating to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. Any budget cuts in that sector would be

seen as negative in view of the enormous efforts being made by the Government and its regional partners.

76. **Mr. Datuwei** (Nigeria) said that his delegation concurred with the Secretary-General's assessment that the situation in South Sudan would remain challenging in the upcoming year, with continued insecurity in parts of the country, uncertain relations with the Sudan and recurring humanitarian needs. The main responsibilities of UNMISS were to strengthen the protection of civilians, defuse local tensions before they escalated and deploy military personnel to high-risk areas. His delegation welcomed the increased resources proposed for the Mission, which would enable it to perform those tasks.

77. Troop-contributing countries must be reimbursed in a timely manner to ensure that they had the necessary resources to procure equipment and maintain personnel in the field. The \$50 million borrowed from the peacekeeping reserve fund as at 15 March 2012 indicated an unhealthy state of affairs: Member States should pay their assessed contributions and the Secretariat should address the issue of funds management.

78. The success of peacekeeping operations would depend to a large extent on the proper implementation of the global field support strategy. Yet the audit report of OIOS on the implementation of the strategy (A/66/714) had not been particularly positive, the Board of Auditors had identified risks to its successful delivery and the Advisory Committee had found it difficult to assess progress in its implementation. To ensure that the goals of the strategy were realized, the Department of Field Support should implement the six OIOS recommendations which it had accepted.

79. His delegation was concerned by the proposed redeployment of 14 posts from UNMISS: given the uncertain status of the global field support strategy, an arbitrary reduction in posts might adversely affect the Mission. Moreover, efforts should be made to fill the vacancies in the Mission, whose vacancy rate remained too high.

80. **Mr. Bame** (Ethiopia) said that, since its establishment in 2011, UNISFA had provided the sole military presence in Abyei and had been discharging its mandate with commendable effectiveness and efficiency. So far, 50 per cent of approximately 113,000 displaced persons had voluntarily returned to their places of origin and there had been no reports of

attacks on humanitarian workers or of inter-community violence during periods of migration.

81. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2024 (2011), the UNISFA mandate had been extended to support the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism. The new mandate expanded the Mission's area of operations and would therefore entail increased support requirements. His Government had worked with the United Nations to deploy its contingents expeditiously and was committed to ensuring that Abyei did not cause further deterioration in relations between the Sudan and South Sudan.

82. The Mission faced serious logistical and other challenges owing to the size of the mission area and the lack of road infrastructure. The Advisory Committee's recommendation for a reduction in the proposed budget for UNISFA was therefore unrealistic; on the contrary, the Mission needed enhanced logistical, administrative and technical support.

83. **Ms. Morgan** (Mexico) said that Haiti demonstrated the need for an integrated approach to crisis situations: a policy of stabilization geared towards providing security for the population should be complemented by projects in the areas of political and electoral reform, human rights and the rule of law, institution-building and support for economic activity. MINUSTAH had done valuable work in support of national efforts aimed at strengthening democracy and laying the foundation for sustainable development, particularly after the devastating earthquake in 2010. Recalling the results of the programme evaluation of the Mission conducted by OIOS (A/66/740), she said that every effort should be made to ensure that the Haitian public was aware of the important work done by the Mission and to avoid any incidents that might generate negative public opinion.

84. MINUSTAH should continue to strengthen national security capacities and, in close cooperation with other actors, contribute to social and economic development with the aim of achieving lasting peace. To that end, it should use its resources efficiently to support community violence reduction projects, quick-impact projects, and reconstruction and development projects.

85. Mexico would support institutional rebuilding and economic recovery in Haiti over the long term. Although the proposed reduction in resource requirements for MINUSTAH was mainly related to a reduction in its contingents, it was necessary to ensure, based on assessment of the conditions on the ground,

that the Mission had adequate resources to discharge its mandate for as long as the Haitian people and Government required and welcomed its assistance.

86. **Mr. Castañeda Solares** (Guatemala) said that, as a country that contributed troops to MINUSTAH, Guatemala was committed to Haiti's development. Despite the progress made in political stability and governance, the Haitian people faced many challenges. The Mission played a crucial role in fostering development through support for Government institutions; adequate resources should therefore be provided for quick-impact projects, which had proved effective in improving institutional capacities and the delivery of social services.

87. Noting that the estimated resource requirements for the community violence reduction programme had decreased from \$9 million in the previous period to \$6 million in the current period, he pointed out that areas of tension remained in Haiti, in particular owing to the presence of organized militias, which jeopardized stability. MINUSTAH should be provided with adequate funding to ensure the proper discharge of its mandate in order to support Haitian institutions, which bore responsibility for the country's future.

88. **Mr. dos Santos** (Brazil) said that MINUSTAH faced major challenges under its complex mandate, which included support for training and equipping the Haitian National Police; addressing the resurgence in gang violence; and fostering local capacities in order to strengthen Haitian institutions. By and large, the budget proposed for the Mission allocated adequate resources for those purposes. However, there was a need to ensure proper funding for community violence reduction programmes, which had proved effective in building sustainable peace and security and were a good example of how peacekeeping missions could adapt to the specific needs of host countries. Adequate funding for quick-impact projects was also crucial. By enabling the Mission to maintain dialogue with the local population, such projects contributed significantly to the successful implementation of mandated tasks.

89. The proposed reductions in resources for rations and fuel were a matter of concern, as they did not appear to be justified or directly correlated to the actual situation. While efficiencies should be pursued in peacekeeping, they should always be based on the reality of each mission on the ground. Across-the-board cuts in key resource areas, which, regrettably, seemed to have been proposed in most of the

peacekeeping budgets before the Committee, would directly affect the troops and their ability to carry out their tasks.

90. He reiterated his delegation's position that peace would be achieved in Haiti only if security and national reconciliation were addressed in conjunction with development and social justice.

91. **Mr. Chuquihua** (Peru) said that MINUSTAH must be provided with adequate financing and that any reduction in its budget must be based not on an arbitrary decision but on the real needs of the Mission. Moreover, every effort should be made to reduce the vacancy rate in order to ensure the Mission's optimal functioning.

92. In addition to contributing troops to MINUSTAH, Peru was also a member of the Group of Friends of Haiti, the Economic and Social Council's Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, the Organization of American States Group of Friends of Haiti, and the Latin American mechanism for political cooperation on Haiti. In the immediate future it was necessary to continue to strengthen public institutions in order to address security and development challenges, and to stabilize the fragile political situation.

93. MINUSTAH was crucial in ensuring security so that the strengthening of the rule of law, democratic governance and capacity-building could go forward. It was also essential for the Mission to be viewed positively by the Haitian people: his Government therefore welcomed the implementation of standards of conduct and preventive measures to avert situations that might undermine the image of MINUSTAH.

94. **Ms. Takahashi** (Norway) said that the situation in South Sudan was dynamic; many needs could not be planned for, so that flexibility must be ensured. UNMISS must be provided with the assets required to ensure the mobility of Mission personnel, a particular challenge in South Sudan. Specifically, she was concerned at the lack of military helicopters, which might hamper implementation of the Mission's mandate.

95. County support bases, a new structure that might offer a useful model for other missions, were a key element in protecting civilians. Her delegation also welcomed the Mission's emphasis on capacity-building — including through South-South cooperation to strengthen central State functions — as vital for peacebuilding in South Sudan.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.

**General Assembly**

Sixty-sixth session

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Fifth Committee**Summary record of the 34th meeting**

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 14 May 2012, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Tommo Monthe (Cameroon)
*Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative
and Budgetary Questions:* Mr. Kelapile

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 115: Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments
(continued)

(b) Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions (continued) (A/66/102/Add.2)

1. **The Chair** drew attention to the note by the Secretary-General (A/66/102/Add.2) informing the General Assembly of the resignation of Ms. Lisa P. Spratt (United States of America) from the Committee on Contributions and requesting the General Assembly to appoint a person to fill the vacancy for the remaining period of the term of office, which would expire on 31 December 2012.

2. The Government of the United States of America had nominated Ms. Susan McLurg, whose candidature had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and other States, to fill the unexpired portion of Ms. Spratt's term of office.

3. *The Committee decided, by acclamation, to recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of Ms. McLurg (United States of America) to membership of the Committee on Contributions for a term of office beginning on the date of her appointment and expiring on 31 December 2012.*

Agenda item 136: Improving the financial situation of the United Nations (continued)

4. **Mr. Sach** (Officer-in-Charge, Department of Management), accompanying his statement with a computerized slide presentation, said that he would focus on four main financial indicators: assessments issued, unpaid assessed contributions, available cash resources and debt to Member States.

5. Turning first to the regular budget, he noted that assessments and payments had both been higher in 2011 than in 2010, by \$249 million and \$162 million respectively. Unpaid assessed contributions had increased to \$454 million as at 31 December 2011, compared to \$351 million a year earlier. By the end of 2011, 143 Member States — five more than in 2010 — had paid their regular budget assessments in full. He urged the remaining Member States to do so as soon as possible. There had been a significant reduction in the outstanding assessment, although the amount remained concentrated, with 95 per cent owed by four Member

States. By 7 May 2012, 92 Member States had paid their regular budget assessments in full, exceeding the number that had paid by 10 May 2011, the cut-off date for that year's review, by six. Regular budget assessments for 2012 were \$2.4 billion, against which payments of \$1.7 billion had been received as of 7 May 2012. Eight Member States had accounted for 95 per cent of the resulting outstanding assessment of some \$1.2 billion, and the final outcome for 2012 would largely depend on the action taken by those Member States. \$171 million had been received from one Member State after the cut-off date of 7 May 2012.

6. Cash resources for the regular budget comprised the General Fund, into which assessed contributions were paid; the Working Capital Fund, authorized periodically by the General Assembly; and the Special Account. There had been a significant increase in the regular budget cash position as at 7 May 2012 compared with 31 December 2011, owing to the receipt of contributions at the start of the year, against which expenditures would be incurred throughout the year. The projected cash balance for the end of December 2012 was slightly lower than the amount at the end of 2011. The final cash position would largely depend on the action taken by the eight countries that had not yet paid their regular budget assessments in full.

7. Financial outcomes for peacekeeping activities were hard to forecast because of unpredictable demand. That, together with the fact that peacekeeping had a different financial period, and that assessments were issued separately for each operation, as well as for different periods throughout the year depending on the mandate period approved by the Security Council, complicated a comparison between the financial situation of peacekeeping operations and that of the regular budget and the international tribunals.

8. The total amount outstanding for peacekeeping operations at the end of 2011 had been \$2.625 billion, which was \$164 million higher than the amount of \$2.461 billion outstanding at the end of 2010, but lower than the outstanding assessment as at 5 October 2011, possibly reflecting the effect of differing payment cycles of Member States. However, approximately 80 per cent of the amount outstanding at the end of 2011 had been owed by nine Member States.

9. The unpredictable amount and timing of peacekeeping assessments made it more difficult for Member States to keep fully current with their

payments. The 29 Member States that had paid all their peacekeeping assessments as at 31 December 2011 therefore deserved special thanks.

10. Although the cash available for peacekeeping at the end of 2011 had been approximately \$3.8 billion, that amount had been divided among the separate accounts maintained for each operation and there were restrictions on its use. The General Assembly had specified that no peacekeeping mission should be financed by borrowing from other active missions and the terms of reference of the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund restricted its use to new operations and the expansion of existing operations. At the end of 2011, cash balances for peacekeeping had totalled \$3,398 million in the accounts of active missions, \$238 million in those of closed missions and \$140 million in the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund.

11. The financial position of peacekeeping operations as at 7 May 2012 showed significant improvement. Against new assessments of over \$1.2 billion issued by 7 May 2012, contributions of \$2.4 billion had been received, reducing the amount outstanding from \$2.6 billion at the end of 2011 to \$1.4 billion, of which 79 per cent related to seven Member States. The 37 Member States that had been fully current with their peacekeeping assessments due and payable as at 7 May 2012 deserved special thanks.

12. It was estimated, on the basis of projected receipts and disbursements, as well as the reclassification of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) from an active to a closed mission, that total cash available in peacekeeping accounts at the end of 2012 would amount to over \$3 billion, with \$2.6 billion in the accounts of active missions, \$279 million in the accounts of closed missions and \$139 million in the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund. The figure for cash in closed missions was the projected total and not the surplus available for return to Member States.

13. As at 31 December 2011, the amount owed to Member States for troops/formed police units and contingent-owned equipment had been \$529 million, compared with \$539 million at the start of the year. An increase in new obligations was projected, mainly as a result of the exceptional reimbursement for contingent-owned equipment by the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia (UNSOA) and the increase in the reimbursement rate

for contingent-owned equipment that took effect on 1 July 2011, partly offset by the partial drawdown of the post-earthquake surge capacities of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

14. It was projected that, by the end of 2012, debt to Member States would increase to \$678 million, taking into account projected new obligations of \$2.1 billion and projected payments of \$1.9 billion. As at 7 May 2012, debt to Member States had totalled \$774 million, of which 50 per cent had been owed to eight Member States. Payments for troops and formed police units, including the one-time supplemental payment authorized by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/289, were current as of January or February 2012 for all missions, except for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) and the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) because of insufficient cash in the special accounts for those two missions. Payments for contingent-owned equipment were current as of December 2011 for all active missions, except for MINURSO, the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), UNMIT and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), also owing to insufficient cash in the special accounts for those missions. Projected payments for 2012 were dependent on the timely finalization of memorandums of understanding: as at 7 May 2012, 31 out of 326 memorandums of understanding for peacekeeping operations had yet to be finalized. The actual level of payments would, naturally, also depend on Member States meeting their financial obligations to the United Nations.

15. The financial position of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia had remained unchanged at the end of 2011 compared with the end of 2010, with \$27 million outstanding. By the end of 2011, 105 Member States — seven more than at the end of 2010 — had paid their assessed contributions for both Tribunals in full. He urged the remaining Member States to follow their example. The financial situation of the two Tribunals had improved in 2012, as outstanding assessments at 7 May 2012 were \$84 million, compared with \$133 million at 10 May 2011. By 7 May 2012, 64 Member States had paid their assessed contributions to both Tribunals and the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals in full, three more than at 10 May 2011. On

of the pilot project designated by the General Assembly in resolution 63/287 (A/66/755), said that the report provided an accurate and comprehensive review, based on information currently available, of the decisions to designate, as a pilot project, centres of investigation in Nairobi, Vienna and New York from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2012 and to maintain resident investigations staff presence in some peacekeeping operations, pending the Assembly's consideration of the comprehensive report on the pilot project. While the criteria for measuring the success of the pilot project had not been specified, OIOS could have easily inferred from the details requested for inclusion in the comprehensive report, as set out in paragraph 40 of General Assembly resolution 63/287, that the objective of the pilot project was to identify the most cost-effective structure that would enable OIOS to build and maintain adequate professional capacity to respond in a timely and effective manner to the investigation needs of peacekeeping operations, especially in the field. OIOS should have taken immediate action to establish the intended purpose of the pilot project; determine the historical and actual baseline levels of services being provided and benchmark against other relevant investigative bodies; examine the strengths and weaknesses of the existing structure from the perspectives of key stakeholders; establish reasonable future expectations of stakeholder clients as target objectives and outcomes; implement basic management monitoring mechanisms to measure and report on actual performance against targets; and propose adjustments to processes and/or structures to improve performance when needed. Regrettably, such action had not been begun for almost a year and a half; owing to that delay, it had been challenging, and in some cases impossible, to complete. Nonetheless, OIOS had developed and/or reconstructed a significant amount of data, and was continuing to do so in order to improve future analysis.

29. Mission management had continually called for increased on-site investigative capacity in missions, primarily because it was seen as more responsive and more easily accessible than capacity in regional centres. It had also become clear that more violations were reported when investigators were embedded within a mission; a total of 26 per cent of all peacekeeping-related reports during the pilot period had been generated through on-site investigators. However, because of leave requirements, on-site investigators had less available time to devote to

investigations than their counterparts in regional centres. The recruitment and retention of investigative staff also remained challenging, especially owing to the temporary nature of the positions allocated to the pilot project, and difficulties in attracting staff to non-family duty stations. The average monthly vacancy rate was 44 per cent in the positions allocated to seven missions, and 30 per cent even in the centres.

30. In view of the challenges and opportunities, including the prospect of travel-related savings with the establishment of an Investigations Division office in the Regional Service Centre at Entebbe, OIOS considered that a hybrid structure would be the most useful approach for the Organization as a whole, for OIOS, for peacekeeping missions, and in particular for the victims of misconduct. A slightly modified hybrid structure would allow the retention of some centres, while at the same time support to mission management would be increased by building investigative capacity on the ground. OIOS would submit a final analysis and specific proposals, including the impact on financial resources, in the context of the proposed support account budget for 2013/14, once the full results of the pilot project were known. That revised time frame would allow the completion of other key studies being undertaken by OIOS and the incorporation of relevant results that might affect structural and resource considerations.

31. **Mr. Kelapile** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the budget performance for 2010/11 and proposed budget for 2012/13 of the peacekeeping support account (A/66/779), said that the Advisory Committee's recommendations would entail a net increase of \$1,036,300 to the proposed budget for 2012/13, representing a net reduction of \$212,100 under proposed non-post resources and an increase of \$1,248,400 under post requirements, based on the Advisory Committee's recommendation against the proposed abolishment of 11 posts funded under the support account and the establishment of the corresponding posts in the budget of the United Nations Logistics Base for 2012/13.

32. With regard to the proposed budget for the support account for 2012/13, the Advisory Committee noted that, of the proposed reduction of 36 posts in the support account, 34 posts relating to functions proposed for transfer to the Logistics Base at Brindisi

and the secondary active telecommunications facility at Valencia were proposed to be established concurrently in the proposed budget of the Logistics Base. The Advisory Committee had been informed, upon enquiry, that the financial requirements associated with the proposed transfer of functions amounted to some \$7.6 million.

33. The Advisory Committee noted that the combined resources proposed for 2012/13 for the support account and the United Nations Logistics Base amounted to \$390.9 million, which represented 5.6 per cent of the proposed resources for peacekeeping missions and UNSOA for 2012/13, the second highest level in the past five budget cycles. The Advisory Committee further noted that the civilian personnel supporting peacekeeping missions had increased from 1,421 in 2007/08 to a projected 1,860 for 2012/13. It reiterated that there should be a determination of what constituted a core or basic capacity necessary to effectively manage and backstop peacekeeping operations and what constituted a scalable capacity that responded to changes in the level of peacekeeping activity. It continued to believe that the consolidation in the scale of peacekeeping activity should lead to a further discernible downward trend in the proposed post and non-post resources for backstopping field operations, considering that capacity had been increased in preceding budget periods when peacekeeping operations had been trending upwards. It was therefore disappointed that the budget proposal for 2012/13 reflected a net reduction of only two posts.

34. With regard to Umoja, the Advisory Committee noted that an interim Director of the project had been appointed on 27 February 2012. It had been informed that Umoja project development activities would commence in the second quarter of 2012 following acquisition of the systems integration services for the build phase of the project and that a detailed deployment plan was being developed. It had also been informed that a study of the total costs of implementing Umoja, which would distinguish between costs to be funded centrally from the Umoja project budget and those that would have to be borne by other departments or offices, was being conducted. The Advisory Committee was concerned at the lack of progress towards meeting the targets of the Umoja recruitment plan. It also expected the Secretary-General to provide, in his next progress report on the implementation of Umoja, a full explanation of the activities undertaken

and the progress made, a comprehensive and detailed implementation plan for the development and deployment of the system and a detailed analysis of the costs of the project. In that connection, the Advisory Committee, recalling that the timely implementation of Umoja would be critical in determining the Organization's ability to implement successfully the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), recognized the progress made towards the implementation of IPSAS in peacekeeping operations but noted that much remained to be done in 2012/13 to ensure that the timelines approved by the General Assembly were met. The Advisory Committee also emphasized the importance of effectively integrating the new Inspira talent management system and Umoja. It urged the Secretary-General to take all necessary steps to ensure that the remaining components of the system were implemented without further delay.

35. The Advisory Committee's comments on the information contained in the performance report for 2010/11 (A/66/610 and Add.1) were provided in chapter V of its report, under the relevant departments and offices.

36. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report (A/66/779/Add.1) on the comprehensive report on the implementation of the pilot project designated by the General Assembly in resolution 63/287, he said that, since the pilot project remained effective until 30 June 2012, and therefore the OIOS report did not benefit either from a comprehensive assessment of the entire period or from full consultations with all relevant stakeholders, the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should request OIOS to submit a final report on the pilot project in the context of the proposed support account budget for 2013/14. The Advisory Committee also noted the high vacancy rate of investigators in OIOS and urged the Office to ensure that all remaining vacant posts were filled as soon as possible.

37. Introducing the report of the Advisory Committee on the budget performance for 2010/11 and proposed budget for 2012/13 of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi (A/66/718/Add.15), he said that, pending further analysis, the Advisory Committee recommended against transfer of functions of the Field Personnel Division at Headquarters to the Global Service Centre, which would entail a reduction of \$1.8 million to the 2012/13 proposed budget for the United Nations Logistics Base, and a corresponding

increase under the peacekeeping support account, as those functions would continue to be provided from Headquarters. Bearing in mind that the proposed budget set out a number of proposals for the second phase of the reprofiling of the Logistics Base, and that related proposals were also contained in the reports of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the global field support strategy (A/66/591) and on the proposed budget for the peacekeeping support account (A/66/721), the current report (A/66/718/Add.15) should be read in conjunction with the Advisory Committee's reports on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations (A/66/718) and the proposed budget of the support account (A/66/779).

38. The Advisory Committee reiterated the need for a comprehensive plan with an end-state vision for the Global Service Centre; clarification of the division of roles among the Department of Field Support at Headquarters, the Global Service Centre, the Regional Service Centre and the field missions; and clear criteria for determining the optimal location from which functions and services could be provided, with details on expected improvements in the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery through the relocation of functions. It emphasized the need to assess the functions already transferred from Headquarters to Brindisi and to include cost-benefit analysis in new proposals for the transfer of functions.

39. The Advisory Committee recommended approval of the proposed restructuring of the Logistics Service, to consolidate and centralize the processes and functions of the Logistics Base into three main components consisting of a Central Warehousing and Distribution Section, a Central Maintenance and Repair Section and a Programme Management Unit. Recognizing the merits of integrating the logistics functions and providing centralized services to field missions in such areas as the strategic deployment of stocks, it also recommended approval of the proposed transfer of four functions, with 23 related posts, from the Logistics Support Division to the Global Service Centre in Brindisi.

40. With regard to the proposed restructuring of the Base Support Service to focus on service delivery and staff development in order to meet the administrative and back-office support needs of field missions, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Secretary-General should be requested, in the context of the comprehensive plan, to provide details on the role of

national staff in the provision of technical expertise to field missions, given their preponderance in the staffing component of the Logistics Base.

41. The Advisory Committee remained unconvinced as to the operational requirement for, or benefits of, deploying the Global Service Centre in two geographically distinct locations, as proposed by the Secretary-General. Such an arrangement constituted a major change from the initial proposals for the strategy, with potentially significant organizational and financial implications. The Advisory Committee also noted that the General Assembly had, to date, approved utilization of the facilities at Valencia only as a secondary active telecommunications facility. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended that the Secretary-General should be requested to submit, for consideration by the General Assembly, a comprehensive study clarifying the rationale for deploying the Centre in two locations and an analysis of potential alternative solutions and their related comparative costs and benefits. Consequently, it recommended against the establishment of the Field Human Resources Management Section in Valencia and the relocation of the Field Central Review Board Unit, the Reference Verification Unit, and the Education Grant Unit from Brindisi to Valencia, with 13 related posts.

42. Moreover, further analysis was required to determine whether the roster management function fully met the Secretary-General's criteria for the relocation of functions to the Global Service Centre, namely that they should be of a transactional rather than a strategic nature, and that they should not require interaction with Member States.

43. Upon enquiry as to the implementation status of the four functions approved for transfer to Brindisi by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/291, the Advisory Committee had been informed that two functions had been fully operational at the Global Service Centre since January 2012, while the other two were being provided from Headquarters pending the recruitment and/or arrival of personnel. The Advisory Committee had also been provided with a table showing the status of implementation of the transfers and recruitment of the related five Professional and three General Service posts, which was included in annex IV to its report (A/66/718/Add.15). The Advisory Committee noted that the eight posts had been abolished at Headquarters and concurrently

established at Brindisi as of 1 July 2011, and that the abolished General Service posts had been established as National General Service posts and recruited locally. Of the five Professional posts proposed for transfer, two had been encumbered, and both staff members had expressed a preference not to relocate to Brindisi for personal/ family reasons. A staff support task force had been created to support staff members who might be affected by the abolishment of posts.

44. In conclusion, the Advisory Committee emphasized the need for an assessment of the transfer of initial functions to the Global Service Centre, with an analysis of the costs, including overheads, of providing services from the Centre, weighed against potential benefits, including savings, productivity and other qualitative gains. Bearing in mind that the Logistics Base had been providing such services as reference checking and education grant processing for some time, it was disappointing that the Secretary-General had not responded to earlier requests for an assessment of that kind. The Advisory Committee stressed that the further development of the Centre should take into account the outcome of such analysis and urged the Secretary-General to provide the requested details in the context of his next progress report on the implementation of the global field support strategy.

45. **Mr. Mihoubi** (Algeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that peacekeeping operations must have the necessary resources — including backstopping resources — to fulfil their mandates during every phase. The level of the support account should correspond broadly to the mandate, number, size and complexity of missions. As peacekeeping operations became more complex, appropriate policies and support arrangements should also be developed. Support should be provided to missions by Headquarters in as integrated a manner as possible, in order to ensure efficiency and effectiveness and avoid duplication, with the aim of achieving qualitative improvements in service delivery to personnel on the ground.

46. Genuine partnership between the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries on all aspects of peacekeeping support was crucial. Troop-contributing countries must have constant access to the Secretariat and their views must be reflected in all phases of peacekeeping operations, from mandate-setting to implementation and deployment. Troop-contributing

countries must also be represented in senior management, both at Headquarters and in the field, to ensure coherence between those who managed operations and those who provided the human resources on the ground; there was considerable room for improvement in that regard. The Group was also concerned at the continuing low proportion of women from developing countries in the Secretariat, especially at senior levels.

47. **Ms. Power** (Observer for the European Union) said that the member States of the European Union firmly believed that the consolidation in the scale of peacekeeping activity should lead to a further discernible downtrend in the proposed post and non-post resources for backstopping field operations, albeit with a delay to allow for increasing complexity and the time required for downsizing and withdrawal. Noting that the combined resources proposed for 2012/13 for the support account and the United Nations Logistics Base, as a ratio of the proposed resources for peacekeeping missions and UNSOA for 2012/13, were at their second highest level in the past five budget cycles, they were concerned at the apparent absence of such a downtrend. The proposed net reduction of only two posts — out of a total of 1,259 — was another indication of continued substantial room for reduction in the support account, in line with the consolidation of peacekeeping operations as a whole. The member States of the European Union would therefore carefully scrutinize all aspects of the proposed support account budget, particularly in relation to posts, general temporary assistance, long-term vacancies and non-post resources.

48. The member States of the European Union concurred with the Advisory Committee that the Secretary-General should redouble his efforts to determine what constituted a core or basic capacity necessary to effectively manage and backstop peacekeeping operations and what constituted a scalable capacity that responded to changes in the level of peacekeeping activity, as envisaged when the support account had first been conceived and implemented. In that regard, they would, for example, request detailed information on the roles and existing division of labour between the Department of Field Support and the Department of Management, and their respective posts and positions regarding peacekeeping finance.

49. With regard to the growing role of the Global Service Centre in backstopping global peacekeeping operations, the member States of the European Union believed that a new presentation, in a clearer and more transparent manner, of the totality of the resources allocated for specific functions and for the support of peacekeeping operations as a whole would help to improve budgetary transparency and accountability. As for the evaluation of the pilot project undertaken by OIOS, they concurred with the Advisory Committee that a complete report on the entire project should be provided in the context of the proposed support account budget for 2013/14, fully taking into account the need to provide effective and efficient investigation services.

The meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.